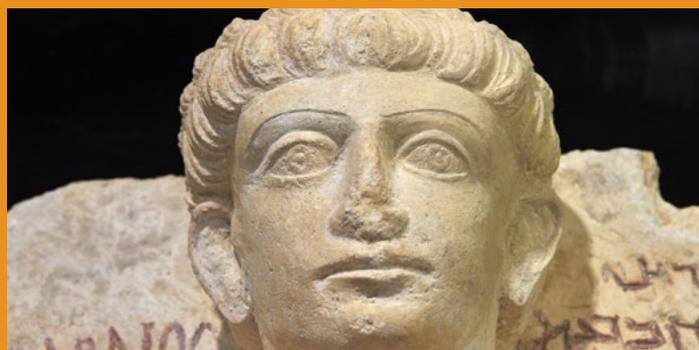
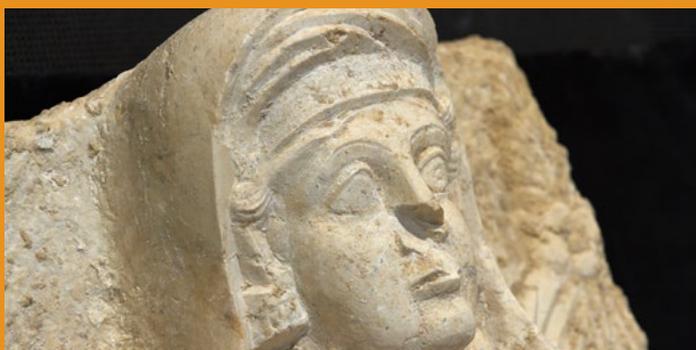


# PRESS REVIEW | PALMYRA'S STATUES RESTORATION



# Palmyra treasures restored after ISIS hammer attack



By **Valentina Di Donato** and **Lauren Said-Moorhouse**, CNN

Updated 2300 GMT (0700 HKT) February 17, 2017



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Badly damaged artifacts were smuggled out of Syrian city of Palmyra for safekeeping

Antiquities expert who saved them from ISIS was killed by the militant group

Italian restorers have worked to repair the statues using a 3D printer

**(CNN)** — Two sculptures from the ancient Syrian city of Palmyra, disfigured by ISIS fighters armed with hammers, have been painstakingly repaired by Italian restoration experts.

The funerary busts of a man and a woman were among a trove of artifacts spirited out of Palmyra by Khalid al-As'ad, the site's head of antiquities, in an attempt to save them from complete destruction as ISIS terrorists occupied the region in 2015.

Al-As'ad's refusal to reveal where he had hidden the priceless carvings cost the 82-year-old university professor his life: he was publicly beheaded by militants in the city's main square in August 2015.



Damaged by ISIS militants in Palmyra, the sculptures were taken to Italy to be repaired.

Italy's former minister of culture, Francesco Rutelli, organized the transportation of the two statues from Damascus, via Beirut, to Rome, where experts set to work restoring them.

The busts, which date back to the second and third century, had been on display between October to December with replicas of other damaged artifacts from Syria and Iraq in a UNESCO-sponsored exhibition at Rome's Coliseum.

[ISIS destroys Palmyra's Arch of Triumph](#)

## 3-D printed repair work

"Italy wanted to maintain the request of the martyr of Palmyra, Khaled al-As'ad, who refused to collaborate with terrorists," Rutelli said.

Now head of the cultural heritage organization Meeting of Civilizations Association, Rutelli said ISIS had "ravaged [Palmyra's] museums with the purpose to destroy."



The ancient carvings were repaired using nylon powder and a 3-D printer.

Antonio Iaccarino, from Equilibrate, the organization which carried out the repairs with Rome's Central Restoration Institute, explained the new techniques used in the work.

"In the past, in a restoration process like this one, the entire damaged area would have been removed and reconstructed. In our case, we did not modify the original part of the sculpture in any way," he said.



ISIS militants armed with hammers left the priceless statues severely damaged.

Reassembled elements of the statue were created by mirroring the artifact using nylon powder and then stamping them with a 3-D printer, Iaccarino said.

[Why ISIS wants to erase Palmyra's history](#)

## 'Erasing the act of violence'

"When I saw the destruction for the first time, I was hit with such distress," said Daria Montemaggiori, another of the restorers.

"You could see the wickedness to eliminate, erase the human image. Seeing this, I was emotionally charged. The work of restoration allows us to erase the act of violence."

ISIS has brought destruction to Palmyra -- one of Syria's most important historic sites -- since it took control of the oasis city in 2015. Many of the city's irreplaceable monuments and antiquities have been razed.



**Photos:** How ISIS ravaged Palmyra's world treasures

**Before:** The ruins of the 2,000-year-old Temple of Baalshamin are seen in Palmyra, Syria, in 2007. The ISIS militant group took over the ancient city last year and razed parts of its [World Heritage Site](#). Syrian government forces recaptured the ancient city from the terror group in March 2016. Click through to see the landmarks before and after ISIS' occupation.



Just days ago, Russia's Defense Ministry warned that "an upsurge in truck movement" in Palmyra indicated that ISIS is planning on using "explosives to deal maximum damage to the remaining architectural relics before they leave."

### ISIS destroys facade of Palmyra's Roman theater

## Risky salvage operation

Faced with losing more precious artifacts at the ancient site, the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums of Damascus has undertaken a risky salvage operation with the help of Rutelli in Italy.

"It is the mobilization the world needs to defend and save cultural heritage against the fundamentalist ideas of ISIS," said Maamoun Abdulkarim, director-general of antiquities and museums of Syria.

"Our work in Syria as archeologists is scientific and not political, because the war in Syria will finish and the politics will change, but the heritage must remain as a memory of all Syrian people, this is a project of peace."



The restored busts will eventually be taken back to Syria to be returned to Palmyra when it is safe.

### Palmyra: Which ancient treasures did ISIS destroy?

Having completed their mission in this particular case, Rutelli said the plan is to one day return the salvaged sculptures to their rightful places in Palmyra.

"The sculptures will be brought back to Damascus, eventually, they will return to Palmyra when it is safe," he said.

"These are the only pieces of art that have left the conflict areas of Syria and Iraq legally," he said. "But they left with the purpose to be restored and then returned to their origin."

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# Deux bustes de Palmyre restaurés à Rome avant de retourner en Syrie

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Un restaurateur travaille sur un buste endommagé de Palmyre, le 16 février 2017 à Rome (AFP/Alberto PIZZOLI)



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A

**D**eux bustes antiques, saccagés par l'organisation de l'Etat Islamique sur le site de Palmyre, seront bientôt rendus à la Syrie après leur restauration en Italie, "sans doute les seules oeuvres d'art sorties (légalement) de la zone du conflit syrien".

"C'est l'illustration d'un thème qui nous est cher: celui de la diplomatie culturelle, le fait que la culture puisse être un instrument de dialogue entre les peuples, même lorsque les circonstances sont difficiles", a déclaré jeudi le ministre italien de la Culture, Dario Franceschini.

"Et en même temps, cela met en valeur les grandes compétences de l'Italie en matière de restauration d'oeuvres d'art", a ajouté le ministre en présentant à la presse les deux bustes antiques dans les laboratoires de l'Institut supérieur de conservation de Rome.

Après quatre semaines de restauration, les deux hauts-reliefs datant des IIe et IIIe siècles seront rendus aux autorités syriennes à la fin du mois.

Pour l'ancien maire de Rome, Francesco Rutelli, l'opération est aussi "une façon de rendre hommage" à l'ancien chef des Antiquités de Palmyre, Khaled al-Assaad, assassiné en août 2015 à 82 ans par les jihadistes de l'organisation de l'Etat Islamique (EI).

Avant d'être exécuté, ce grand spécialiste du site de Palmyre "était parvenu à cacher des centaines d'oeuvres d'art mais pas ces deux bustes qui étaient tombés aux mains des hommes de l'EI", a expliqué M. Rutelli, promoteur de cette restauration via l'association "Incontro di Civiltà" (rencontre de civilisation) qu'il préside.

Depuis sa montée en puissance en 2014, l'EI a ravagé plusieurs sites, dont certains classés au Patrimoine mondial de l'Unesco, car il considère les statues ou les mausolées comme de l'idolâtrie qui doit être combattue.

A Palmyre, qu'il a occupée de mai 2015 à mars 2016, puis reprise à l'armée le 11 décembre, le groupe extrémiste sunnite a détruit les plus beaux temples, des tours funéraires ainsi qu'un grand nombre d'oeuvres d'art.

Mais l'organisation terroriste tire également une partie de ses financements grâce au recel des objets antiques qu'elle ne saccage pas de façon spectaculaire devant les caméras.

- Combat idéologique -

Les deux bustes, dont les visages avaient été gravement endommagés à coups de marteau, ont pu être transférés à Rome, via le Liban, après avoir été mis à l'abri à Damas au moment de la récupération de Palmyre par les troupes syriennes, a expliqué Francesco Rutelli.

Selon lui, "ce sont peut-être les seules oeuvres d'art sorties de la zone de conflit syrien qui n'ont pas été volées et qui ont quitté le pays pour être restaurées".

"Ce geste n'a aucune valeur politique de soutien de notre part pour une quelconque position. L'Italie l'a fait et le fera quel que soit le pays qui le demande", a-t-il affirmé. Une polémique a éclaté dans le monde des archéologues sur le bien-fondé d'une collaboration avec le régime du président Bachar al-Assad, dans les zones "libérées" par l'armée syrienne.

Un mois de travail et cinq personnes ont été nécessaires pour rendre un visage humain aux deux bustes, l'un masculin l'autre féminin.

Sur l'un d'eux, dont le haut du visage avait été perdu, les spécialistes ont reconstruit le morceau manquant à l'aide d'un imprimante 3D, une technique jamais utilisée jusqu'alors pour ce type de restauration, ont-ils expliqué aux journalistes.

Constituée de poudre de nylon synthétique, la pièce nouvellement créée a été fixée sur le visage à l'aide de plusieurs aimants, "ce qui la rend totalement amovible, conformément au principe qui veut que toute restauration soit toujours réversible", a expliqué l'un des restaurateurs Antonio Iaccarino.

"Ce que l'Etat Islamique a détruit nous l'avons reconstruit. Par le biais de la culture, nous menons aussi un combat idéologique", a-t-il conclu.

AFP

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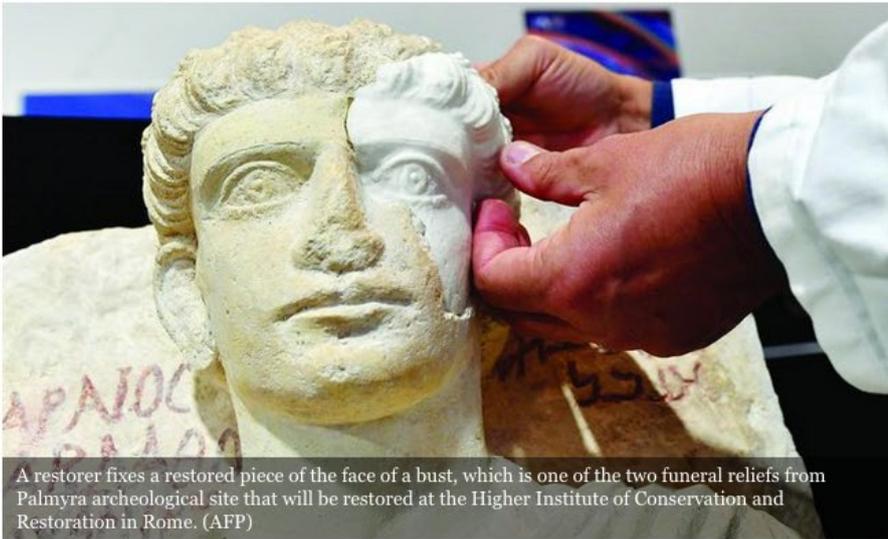


Home > Antique Busts Ruined In Palmyra Will Return To Syria

## MIDDLE-EAST

# Antique busts ruined in Palmyra will return to Syria

AFP | Published — Saturday 18 February 2017



ROME: Two rare busts rescued from the Daesh group's destruction of the ancient city of Palmyra will soon be heading back to Syria, after a painstaking restoration in Italy.

Recovered by Syrian troops, they had been badly disfigured with what appeared to be hammer blows and are perhaps the only such artifacts to leave the desert site without being stolen.

Modern technology aided their saving, which is also being seen as a tribute to Khaled Assad, the former head of antiquities at Palmyra, murdered by Daesh fighters in 2015, at the age of 82.

"This is an example of an issue we hold dear: that of cultural diplomacy, the fact that culture can be an instrument for dialogue between people, even when circumstances are difficult," Italian Culture Minister Dario Franceschini said Thursday.

Daesh seized Palmyra in May 2015 and began to systematically destroy the city's monuments and temples, while also looting its many archaeological treasures.

They were driven out in March 2016 but recaptured the town last December.

Although the precise date of its founding is unknown, Palmyra's name is referred to on a tablet dating from the 19th century BC as a stopping point for caravans between the Mediterranean and the east.

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Known to Syrians as the “Pearl of the Desert,” Palmyra boasted temples, colonnaded alleys and elaborately decorated tombs that were among the best preserved classical monuments in the Middle East, before their wanton destruction.

Hundreds of important heritage sites have been sacked or destroyed during the five-year conflict, including the first-century temples of Bel and Baalshamin in Palmyra.

The two funeral busts, which are to be returned to Syrian authorities by the end of the month, were recovered by regime soldiers when they initially retook Palmyra.

They had been badly disfigured by hammers, said former Rome Mayor Francesco Rutelli, who promoted the restoration through his “Incontro di Civiltà” (Meeting of Civilizations) association.

The busts “are probably the only works of art taken from the Syrian conflict zone that were not stolen,” Franceschini told reporters during a showing at Italy’s Superior Institute for Conservation and Restoration.

The busts, of a man and a woman, date to the second and third centuries and were brought to Lebanon before being transferred to Rome, Rutelli said.

He also rejected critics who have denounced the idea of working with the regime of Syrian President Bashar Assad while the war in the country rages.

“This gesture has no element of political support on our part. Italy has done it, and will do it, for any country that asks,” Rutelli said, noting that the restoration was also a tribute to the late head of antiquities Assad.

Before his death, the octogenarian “managed to hide hundreds of works of art, but not these two busts, which fell into Daesh hands,” Rutelli said.

A team of five specialists worked on the restorations for a month, focusing in particular on the faces.

On one, the upper part of the face had been destroyed, but the team managed to recreate the missing portion using a synthetic nylon powder and a 3-D printer, a technique that had never been used for such a restoration.

The new piece was attached to the bust with powerful magnets, “which makes it completely removable, in line with the principle that all restoration work must be completely reversible,” said Antonio Iaccarino, one of the restorers.

“What Daesh has destroyed, we have rebuilt,” he said. “Through culture, we also wage an ideological battle.”



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## Syrians' Hope



## Readers' Contributions

## Italian Experts Complete Restoration of Two Busts Destroyed by ISIS in Syria's Palmyra

Created on Saturday, 18 February 2017 22:11 | Published Date | | | Hits: 259



Italian experts have completed restoration of the two funerary busts destroyed by ISIS terrorists in the Syrian Palmyra city, according to the Directorate-General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) website.

The website reported Friday that Italian experts in the Higher Institute of Conservation and Restoration in Rome used laser scans, a 3D printer and a mixture of nylon and marble dust to restore the two busts, which date back to the second and third century AD.

One of the two busts shows a noble man wearing a Roman-style toga, while the second one shows a woman with jewels around her neck and turban on her head.

"The experts were able to glue the woman's face back together, but the left side of the man's was missing. A laser scan of the right side was used to recreate the left side, which was then produced in nylon on a 3D printer and covered in powdered marble to resemble the lost limestone. The surface was painted to match older surrounding colors," DGAM clarified.

### Laser scans, 3D printer



It added that technicians used lasers to scan the shattered faces of the two figures and then sophisticated 3D printers to create resin parts that replaced the bits of stone that were lost during Isis' rampage. The male figure was particularly badly smashed, with half its face missing.



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Monde / Proche-orient / Etat islamique

## Syrie : l'Italie sauve des trésors archéologiques de Palmyre

Deux bustes de la cité antique de Palmyre, en Syrie, ont pu être sauvés du groupe État islamique et ont été restaurés par l'Italie. Ils vont être renvoyés pour retrouver leur place d'origine.



Deux bustes, venant de la cité antique de Palmyre (Syrie), ont été restaurés par des experts italiens grâce à des logiciels sophistiqués. (ALBERTO PIZZOLI / AFP)

Antonino Galafaro  
franceinfo  
Radio France

Mis à jour le 18/02/2017 | 12:04  
publié le 18/02/2017 | 12:04

710

PARTAGES



Le groupe État islamique n'a de cesse de détruire sur son passage le patrimoine culturel de la Syrie. La cité antique de Palmyre est sans doute la plus touchée par ce désastre archéologique.

Mais la guerre pour protéger ce patrimoine ancestral continue, et l'Italie a certainement remporté une bataille : deux bustes de Palmyre ont pu être sauvés. Ils sont arrivés, l'an dernier, à Rome pour être restaurés et seront renvoyés en Syrie à la fin du mois de février.

### Reconstitutions par images 3D

Le groupe État islamique avait fait de gros dégâts à ces deux sculptures. Le coup de masse d'un jihadiste avait notamment emporté la partie gauche du visage d'un de ces bustes, daté entre le IIe et le IIIe siècle. Arrivé à Rome l'an dernier avec une autre sculpture, il a pu être restauré par des experts italiens, utilisant des techniques très pointues. "On a fait une reconstitution à partir d'un scan 3D de la partie [toujours existante], on a fait un découpage miroir, et on a répliqué la partie existante sur la partie perdue", décrit Antonio Iaccarino Idelson, un restaurateur.



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Le visage d'une des sculptures, en partie détruit par un jihadiste, a pu être reconstitué grâce à un logiciel 3D. (ALBERTO PIZZOLI / AFP)

Cette opération a été rendue possible grâce à un accord entre la direction des antiquités de Damas et l'association italienne Rencontres de civilisations, qui se sont mises d'accord sur une entente scientifique. Il ne s'agit en effet en aucun cas d'une collaboration politique avec le régime syrien, comme l'explique le président de l'association, l'ancien maire de Rome, Francesco Rutelli, qui a suivi le périple de ces sculptures. "La direction des antiquités de Damas les a amenées à la frontière, explique-t-il. Puis, les bustes ont été pris en charge au Liban par des chargés d'affaires italiens. [Les sculptures] ont pris un avion pour Rome avec nos archéologues. Et ce sera la même chose pour le retour." Les deux bustes seront ainsi renvoyés en Syrie à la fin du mois de février.

## Un exemple à suivre

L'Italie montre par cette opération son engagement dans la protection du patrimoine culturel mondial et souhaite donner l'exemple. "Ce qui nous intéresse, ce n'est pas d'être les premiers de la classe. Il faut que la communauté internationale s'active dans son ensemble, explique Dario Franceschini, le ministre de la Culture. Si le patrimoine culturel est celui de l'humanité comme le rappelle l'Unesco, des occasions concrètes comme celles-ci permettent de le manifester, indépendamment du pays où il se trouve."

*"Une fois Palmyre libérée, il y aura un grand engagement de reconstruction dans lequel nous espérons que toute la communauté scientifique internationale sera impliquée."*

— Dario Franceschini, le ministre de la Culture italien  
à franceinfo



D'ailleurs, dans la continuité de cet engagement, l'Italie accueille fin mars à Florence le premier G7 de la culture. Il y sera notamment question du trafic illicite d'œuvres d'art, source de revenu pour le groupe État islamique.

Deux sculptures de la cité antique de Palmyre, en Syrie, ont été restaurées par l'Italie. Reportage d'Antonino Galofaro.



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Italy: Roman scientists restore ancient sculptures from IS-ravaged Palmyra

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Publicato il 16 feb 2017  
 Restoration artists in Rome restored two sculptures from a museum in the Syrian town of Palmyra after they were damaged by militants from the so-called Islamic State (IS; formerly ISIS/ISIL), at the Italian Institute for Conservation and Restoration, Thursday.

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🏠 News

# Stone sculptures smashed by Isil in ancient city of Palmyra restored to former glory by Italian experts



A funerary bust from the Syrian archeological site of Palmyra dating back to the 2nd century AD, restored by the Italian Institute of Conservation and Restoration, is fitted with a magnetised prosthetic part to fill the damaged part of the face. CREDIT: CHRIS WARDE-JONES

By **Nick Squires**, ROME

16 FEBRUARY 2017 • 2:26PM

**P**riceless stone sculptures that were smashed with hammers by Islamic State extremists in the ancient Syrian town of Palmyra have been meticulously restored by Italian experts with the help of laser scans and 3D printers.

The 2nd century AD funerary busts – one of a man, the other of a woman – were vandalised by Isis terrorists after they overran the archeological site and its museum in 2015.

When the ancient desert outpost was retaken by Syrian and Russian forces, the artefacts were whisked to safety in Beirut.

They were then sent to Rome, where for the past two months experts have harnessed Italy's formidable cultural heritage expertise to repair the damage.

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Technicians used lasers to scan the shattered faces of the two figures and then sophisticated 3D printers to create resin parts that replaced the bits of stone that were lost during Isis' rampage. The male figure was particularly badly smashed, with half its face missing.

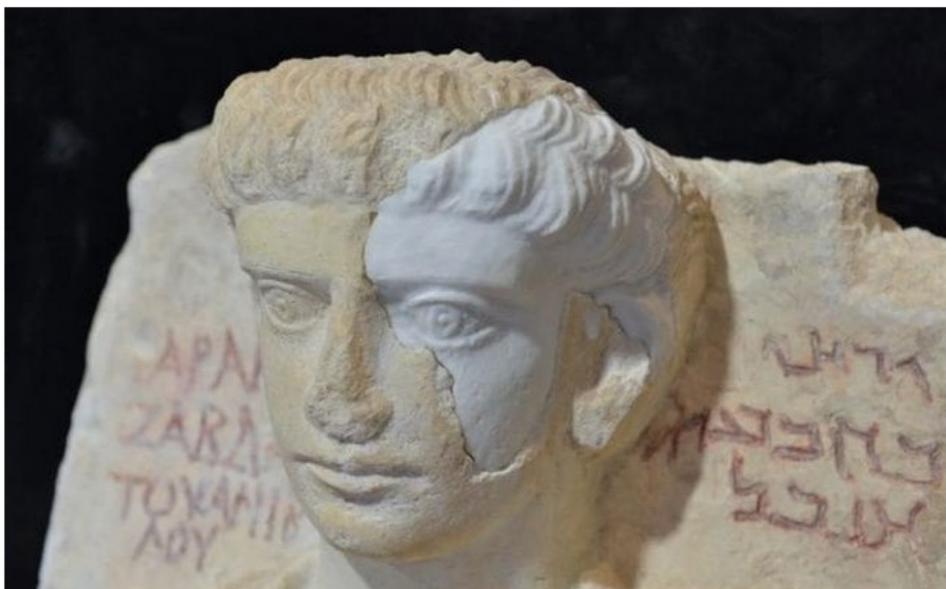


In an image from a militant video posted on YouTube in May 2015, smoke rises behind archaeological ruins in Palmyra, Syria. CREDIT: AP

Experts in Rome produced a “prosthetic” for the side of the face that was lost. It is removable, so that if the original stone fragment is ever found, it can be reattached. The prosthetic attaches to the stone bust with the help of six tiny magnets.

“The resin prosthetics were coated with a very fine layer of stone dust to make them blend in with the original stone,” said Gisella Capponi, the director of the Italian Institute for Conservation and Restoration, which carried out the work. “It was a great honour for us to be able to restore such extraordinary artefacts, which were so brutally damaged by Isis.”

The institute, founded in 1939, has decades of experience working on artefacts from Pompeii and Rome, ancient Etruscan tombs and paintings by Renaissance masters such as Caravaggio.



A prosthetic part was fitted to the bust CREDIT: CHRIS WARDE-JONES / TELEGRAPH

Isil were pushed out of Palmyra in March last year but reoccupied the ancient site in December.

“There was a small window between Isis being expelled and them returning,” said Francesco Rutelli, a former culture minister and now head of a cultural heritage association. “Palmyra is once again a conflict zone, sadly. But at least these extraordinary works were rescued.”

The restoration of the artefacts was a tribute to Khaled al-Asaad, the 82-year-old head of antiquities in Palmyra, who was beheaded by Isis terrorists after refusing to reveal the location of artefacts that he had removed for safekeeping, said Mr Rutelli.



Daria Montemaggiore, a restorer, with the funerary bust of a woman, one of two brought from Palmyra and restored by the Italian Institute of Conservation and Restoration after damage inflicted by ISIS terrorists. CREDIT: CHRIS WARDE-JONES

Although Palmyra was part of the Roman empire, it is thought the man and woman were from a local family of wealthy merchants. Inscriptions on the busts are in Greek and Aramaic, rather than Latin.

“When I saw the state the busts were in I felt a great sadness and anguish,” said Daria Montemaggiore, a member of the restoration team.

The busts will be returned to Syria at the end of this month – they will be kept in Damascus until Isis are driven once again from Palmyra and the site is deemed to be secure.

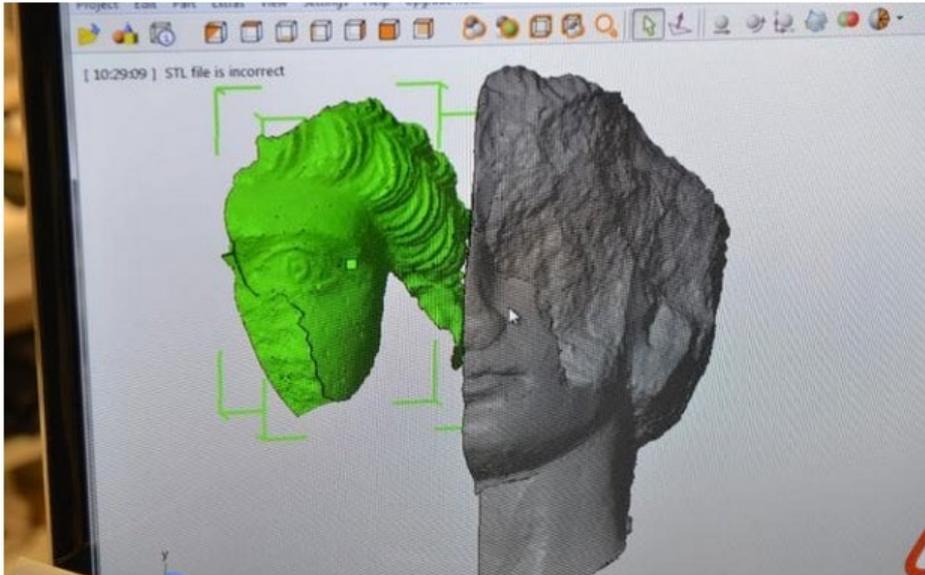


Destruction at the museum of the ancient city of Palmyra CREDIT: JOSEPH EID/ AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The noble appearance of the man, who wears a Roman-style toga, and the woman, who has carved jewels around her neck and in the turban she wears, reflect the one-time importance of Palmyra, experts said.

“It was a very important trading town. A range of valuable things were traded through it, including ostriches, slaves, olive oil and precious stones and textiles,” said Frances Pinnock, a professor of ancient Near East archeology at La Sapienza University in Rome.

“It was part of the Roman Empire but then rebelled against Rome. This couple represent the elite of Palmyra, who were mostly rich merchants.”



A 3D computer image which was used to print the prosthetic replacement part CREDIT: CHRIS WARDE-JONES/TELEGRAPH

On Monday, Russia released drone footage of the latest destruction wrought by Isis militants in Palmyra. The drone footage showed that Isis have badly damaged the facade of the Roman-era theatre and the Tetracylon - a set of four monuments with four columns each at the centre of the colonnaded road leading to the theatre.

The video appeared to show that only two of the 16 columns remain standing. Syrian government forces are involved in a new offensive to take the city back, advancing to within 12 miles of the World Heritage site.

# Deux bustes de Palmyre restaurés à Rome avant de retourner en Syrie

afp, le 16/02/2017 à 18h36

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Un restaurateur travaille sur un buste endommagé de Palmyre, le 16 février 2017 à Rome / AFP

Deux bustes antiques, saccagés par l'organisation de l'Etat Islamique sur le site de Palmyre, seront bientôt rendus à la Syrie après leur restauration en Italie, "sans doute les seules oeuvres d'art sorties (légalement) de la zone du conflit syrien".

"C'est l'illustration d'un thème qui nous est cher: celui de la diplomatie culturelle, le fait que la culture puisse être un instrument de dialogue entre les peuples, même lorsque les circonstances sont difficiles", a déclaré jeudi le ministre italien de la Culture, Dario Franceschini.

"Et en même temps, cela met en valeur les grandes compétences de l'Italie en matière de restauration d'oeuvres d'art", a ajouté le ministre en présentant à la presse les deux bustes antiques dans les laboratoires de l'Institut supérieur de conservation de Rome.

## Autour de cet article



**Moyen-Orient**  
Yves Ubelmann photographie pour sauver les traces de l'histoire



**Moyen-Orient**  
Reconstruire Palmyre, un débat politique



**Moyen-Orient**  
Après Daech, la reconstruction de Palmyre est un enjeu pour Damas



**Moyen-Orient**  
« Le site de Palmyre ne pourra être restauré dans son état initial »

## À la une

TOUT FRANCE MONDE CULTURE RELIGION



**Asie-Océanie**  
Les non-dits du meurtre du Nord-Coréen Kim Jong-nam



**Politique**  
Présidentielle, Christian Troadec, la région avant tout

Après quatre semaines de restauration, les deux hauts-reliefs datant des IIe et IIIe siècles seront rendus aux autorités syriennes à la fin du mois.

Pour l'ancien maire de Rome, Francesco Rutelli, l'opération est aussi "une façon de rendre hommage" à l'ancien chef des Antiquités de Palmyre, Khaled al-Assaad, assassiné en août 2015 à 82 ans par les jihadistes de l'organisation de l'Etat Islamique (EI).

Avant d'être exécuté, ce grand spécialiste du site de Palmyre "était parvenu à cacher des centaines d'oeuvres d'art mais pas ces deux bustes qui étaient tombés aux mains des hommes de l'EI", a expliqué M. Rutelli, promoteur de cette restauration via l'association "Incontro di Civiltà" (rencontre de civilisation) qu'il préside.



Le ministre italien de la Culture, Dario Franceschini visite le laboratoire de l'Institut supérieur de conservation de Rome, le 16 février 2017 à Rome / AFP/Archives

Depuis sa montée en puissance en 2014, l'EI a ravagé plusieurs sites, dont certains classés au Patrimoine mondial de l'Unesco, car il considère les statues ou les mausolées comme de l'idolâtrie qui doit être combattue.

A Palmyre, qu'il a occupée de mai 2015 à mars 2016, puis reprise à l'armée le 11 décembre, le groupe extrémiste sunnite a détruit les plus beaux temples, des tours funéraires ainsi qu'un grand nombre d'oeuvres d'art.

Mais l'organisation terroriste tire également une partie de ses financements grâce au recel des objets antiques qu'elle ne saccage pas de façon spectaculaire devant les caméras.

- Combat idéologique -

Les deux bustes, dont les visages avaient été gravement endommagés à coups de marteau, ont pu être transférés à Rome, via le Liban, après avoir été mis à l'abri à Damas au moment de la



#### Politique

Le plan de relance à 273 milliards d'euros de Jean-Luc Mélenchon



#### Cinéma

À Poitiers, le festival Filmer le travail a attribué son palmarès



#### Sécurité

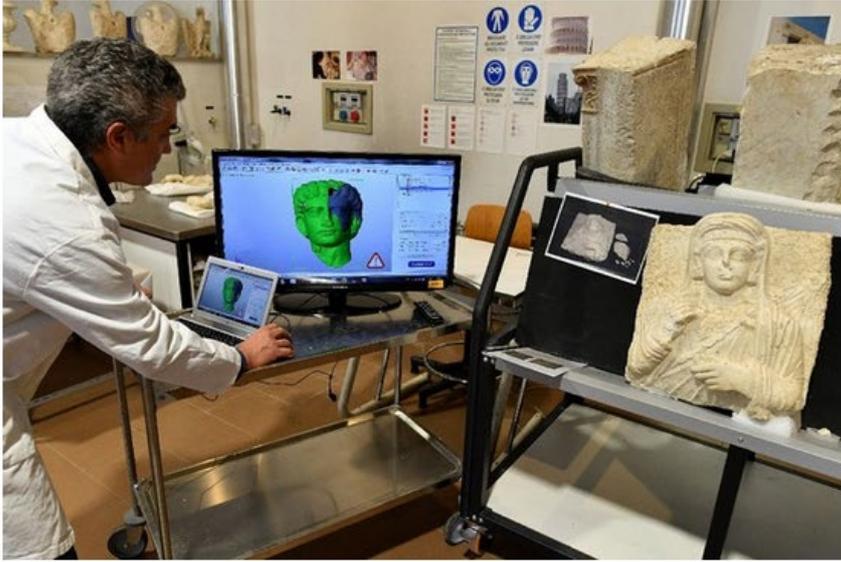
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récupération de Palmyre par les troupes syriennes, a expliqué Francesco Rutelli.

Selon lui, "ce sont peut-être les seules oeuvres d'art sorties de la zone de conflit syrien qui n'ont pas été volées et qui ont quitté le pays pour être restaurées".



Antonio Iaccarino, restaurateur italien, le 16 février 2017 dans son laboratoire de Rome où son équipe restaure deux bustes de Palmyre / AFP

"Ce geste n'a aucune valeur politique de soutien de notre part pour une quelconque position. L'Italie l'a fait et le fera quel que soit le pays qui le demande", a-t-il affirmé. Une polémique a éclaté dans le monde des archéologues sur le bien-fondé d'une collaboration avec le régime du président Bachar al-Assad, dans les zones "libérées" par l'armée syrienne.

Un mois de travail et cinq personnes ont été nécessaires pour rendre un visage humain aux deux bustes, l'un masculin l'autre féminin.

Sur l'un d'eux, dont le haut du visage avait été perdu, le spécialistes ont reconstruit le morceau manquant à l'aide d'un imprimante 3D, une technique jamais utilisée jusqu'alors pour ce type de restauration, ont-ils expliqué aux journalistes.

Constituée de poudre de nylon synthétique, la pièce nouvellement créée a été fixée sur le visage à l'aide de plusieurs aimants, "ce qui la rend totalement amovible, conformément au principe qui veut que toute restauration soit toujours réversible", a expliqué l'un des restaurateurs Antonio Iaccarino.

"Ce que l'Etat Islamique a détruit nous l'avons reconstruit. Par le biais de la culture, nous menons aussi un combat idéologique", a-t-il conclu.

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## Deux bustes de Palmyre restaurés à Rome avant de retourner en Syrie



Par Agence France Presse (AFP)

17 FÉV 2017  
12:01  
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# IS verwoest oude beelden, Italië knapt ze weer op

CULTUUR

Pauline Valkenet – 20:57, 16 februari 2017



▲ © anp

Ooit was Palmyra een bloeiende Romeinse stad. Italië voelde zich daarom geroepen om beelden te restaureren die IS had vernietigd.

DEEL DIT ARTIKEL



GESCHREVEN DOOR

Pauline Valkenet

Kunstwerken uit de antieke Syrische stad Palmyra, die door Islamitische Staat zwaar zijn toegetakeld, zijn voor de eerste keer naar het buitenland gebracht om daar te worden gerestaureerd. De eer komt Italië toe. Sinds eind december zijn experts in Rome bezig om twee marmeren bustes, waarvan de gezichten met een hamer kapot zijn geslagen, in hun volle glorie te herstellen. Aan het eind

van de maand zullen de opgeknapte kunstwerken worden teruggegeven aan de Syrische autoriteiten in Damascus.

In het Hogere Instituut voor Conservatie en Restauratie van het ministerie van Cultuur, aan de oever van de Tiber, is een klein team voorzichtig in de weer met de beschadigde bustes. Het gaat om twee beelden van aristocraten uit Palmyra die in de tweede of derde eeuw na Christus zijn begraven; de bustes dienden ter versiering van hun graftombes.

De beelden hingen jarenlang ongestoord in het Archeologische Museum van Palmyra. Maar toen in mei 2015 duidelijk werd dat IS de archeologische locatie wilde veroveren, heeft de archeologische dienst uit Damascus in allerijl zo veel mogelijk kunstwerken uit het museum gehaald en in de Syrische hoofdstad in veiligheid gebracht.

De twee bustes waren echter zo stevig aan de muur bevestigd dat ze moesten worden achtergelaten, net als een aantal mozaïeken en grote standbeelden. Toen IS Palmyra eenmaal had ingenomen, heeft de groepering er enorm huisgehouden: tombes en tempels zijn opgeblazen en in het museum zijn de twee bustes kapot geslagen.

*Tekst loopt door onder afbeelding.*

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## Tombes en tempels zijn opgeblazen en in het museum zijn de twee bustes kapot geslagen

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### Afgebroken brokken

In maart 2016 kreeg het Syrische leger Palmyra tijdelijk weer in handen. De archeologische dienst heeft de beschadigde bustes met de afgebroken brokken en stukjes marmer toen alsnog naar Damascus gebracht. Francesco Rutelli, voormalig minister van Cultuur, hoorde daarvan en wilde iets doen.

### Alleen haar neus ontbreekt nog

De ene buste is die van een vrouw. Haar hoofd is bedekt met een sluier, ze draagt een met parels bedekte haarband en een ketting. De andere buste is die van een man. Hij

---

## Bescherming van erfgoed gaat boven alles

Francesco Rutelli

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Hij leidt tegenwoordig een vereniging die zich inzet voor internationale culturele samenwerking.

Rutelli maakte contact met Damascus en bood aan om de kunstwerken in Italië te laten restaureren. "Ik vond het verschrikkelijk om te zien hoe IS in het prachtige Palmyra, dat bijna tweeduizend jaar geleden een bloeiende stad van het Romeinse rijk was, expres kunst aan het verwoesten was. Die terroristen willen opzettelijk beschaving vernietigen. Dat kunnen wij niet accepteren", legt hij uit.

Met behulp van het Italiaanse ministerie van Cultuur konden de bustes naar Libanon worden gebracht en van daaruit naar Rome gevlogen. Dario Franceschini, de minister van Cultuur die de marmeren kunstwerken gisteren kwam bekijken, ziet geen enkel probleem in deze samenwerking met het bewind van de Syrische president Bashar al-Assad. "Wij bedrijven culturele diplomatie.

Dat doet Italië al decennia, om zelfs bij grote politieke problemen belangrijke banden in stand te houden. Deze bustes zijn voor ons ook geen erfgoed van het Syrische regime, maar van de hele mensheid. Daarom moet het worden beschermd en hersteld en wij Italianen zijn er trots op daarin te excelleren."

Ook Francesco Rutelli ziet geen ethische bezwaren. "Bescherming van erfgoed gaat boven alles. Italië kiest daarbij geen partij. Wij willen juist een veilige haven voor erfgoed zijn, dat is een mooie rol voor ons land. Daarbij staan we boven alle partijen."

De kosten van de opknapbeurt, zo'n 7.000 euro, zijn voor rekening van het ministerie van Cultuur. Eind februari komen Syrische archeologen de beelden ophalen. Rutelli: "Ik meen dat de bustes onderin de Centrale Bank in Damascus terechtkomen, waar ze geen gevaar lopen. Zodra het in Palmyra weer veilig is, zullen ze daar terugkeren."

draagt een toga en een mantel om zijn schouders. In het Hogere Instituut voor Conservatie en Restauratie zijn ze onder de indruk van de buitenlandse gasten. "Dit is buitengewoon cultureel erfgoed, dat me raakt", vertelt Gisella Capponi, die de leiding over het instituut heeft. "Ik moet denken aan het verdriet dat de families van deze twee belangrijke personen vanwege hun overlijden moeten hebben gehad."

Met behulp van de originele stukjes marmer is het gezicht van de vrouw al bijna helemaal hersteld, alleen haar neus ontbreekt nog. Voor het deel van het hoofd van de man dat is weggeslagen, is een prothese van plastic gemaakt. Die is nu nog spierwit, maar zal de wat gelige kleur van de rest van het beeld krijgen.

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## Bustos antigos arruinados em Palmira voltarão para a Síria

Objetos resgatados passaram por restauração na Itália.



Por France Presse

17/02/2017 16h33 · Atualizado 17/02/2017 16h52



Restauradora Daria Montemagni mostra réplica criada por impressora 3D de uma parte danificada de busto destruído durante ocupação de Palmira pelo Estado Islâmico (Foto: AP Foto/Domenico Stinellis)

Dois bustos raros resgatados da destruição da antiga cidade de Palmira pelo grupo extremista Estado Islâmico (EI) voltarão em breve à Síria, após uma minuciosa restauração na Itália.

Recuperados pelas tropas sírias, eles haviam sido desfigurados com o que parece ter sido golpes de martelo, e são talvez os únicos artefatos desse tipo a saírem do deserto sem ser roubados.

A tecnologia moderna ajudou na restauração, que também é vista como uma homenagem ao arqueólogo sírio Khaled al-Assad, ex-chefe de antiguidades em Palmira, assassinado por combatentes do EI em 2015, aos 82 anos.

"Este é um exemplo de uma questão a qual atribuímos grande importância: a da diplomacia cultural, o fato de que a cultura pode ser um instrumento de diálogo entre as pessoas, mesmo quando as circunstâncias são difíceis", disse na quinta-feira o ministro italiano da Cultura, Dario Franceschini.

Os jihadistas do EI se apoderaram de Palmira em maio de 2015 e começaram a destruir sistematicamente os monumentos e templos da cidade, ao mesmo tempo em que saqueavam seus muitos tesouros arqueológicos.

Eles foram expulsos em março de 2016, mas recuperaram o controle da cidade em dezembro passado.

## 'Pérola do Deserto'

Embora a data exata da fundação de Palmira seja desconhecida, o nome da cidade é referido em uma tábua que data do século XIX A.C. como um ponto de parada para caravanas entre o Mediterrâneo e o Oriente.

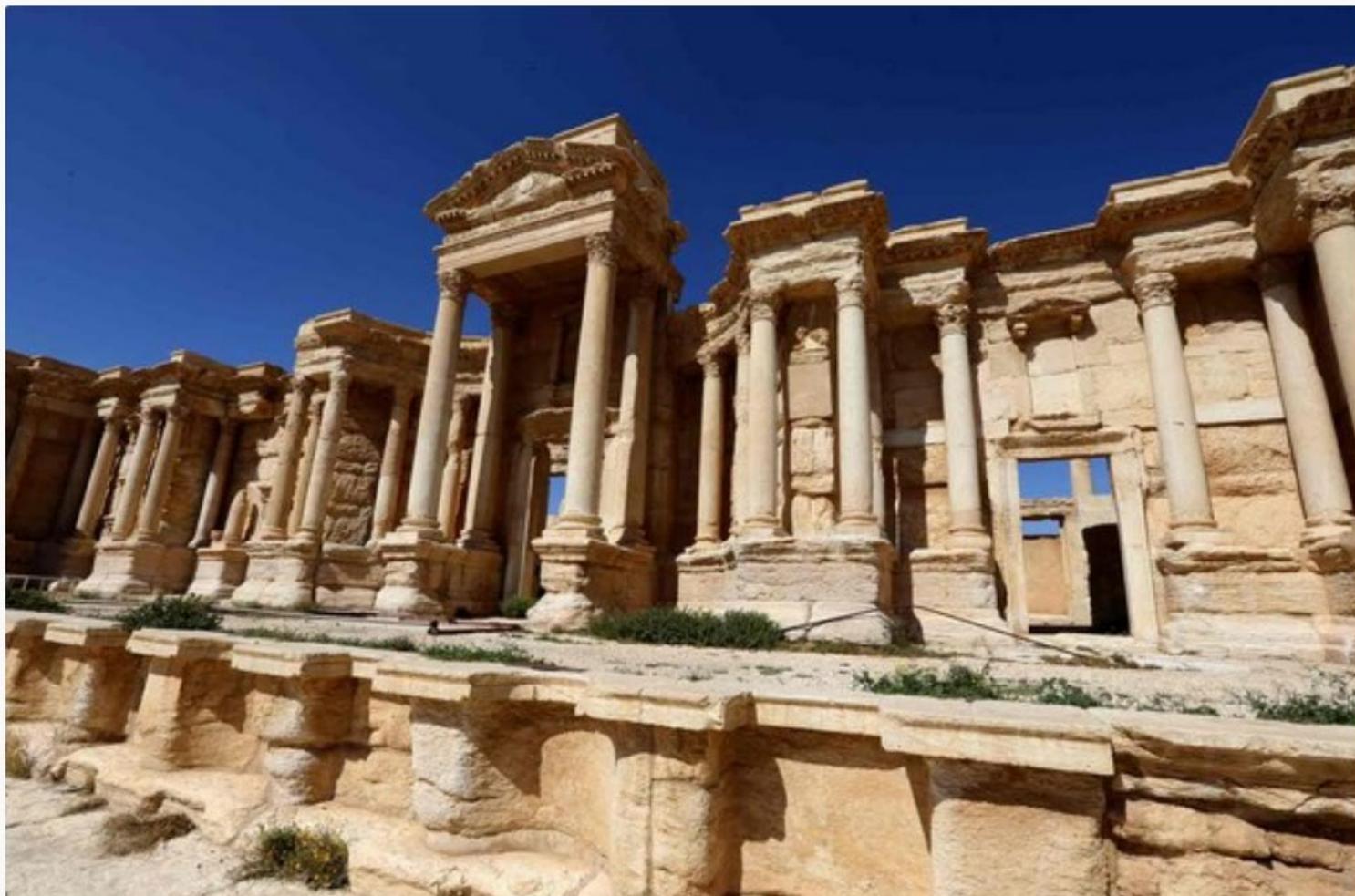


Foto de março de 2016 mostra o Teatro Romano em Palmira, na Síria (Foto: Joseph Eid/AFP)

Conhecida pelos sírios como a "Pérola do Deserto", Palmira ostentava templos, becos com colunas e tumbas elaboradamente decoradas que estavam entre os monumentos clássicos mais bem preservados do Oriente Médio, antes da sua destruição.

Centenas de importantes sítios do patrimônio foram saqueados ou destruídos durante o conflito, que já dura cinco anos, incluindo os templos de Bel e Baal-Shamin, do século I, em Palmira.

## Desfiguradas por martelos

Os dois bustos funerários, que devem ser devolvidos às autoridades sírias até o final do mês, foram resgatados por soldados do regime quando eles retomaram Palmira.

As esculturas tinham sido seriamente desfiguradas por martelos, disse o ex-prefeito de Roma Francesco Rutelli, que promoveu a restauração através de sua associação "Incontro di Civiltà" (encontro de civilizações).

Os bustos "são provavelmente as únicas obras de arte tiradas da zona do conflito sírio que não foram roubadas", disse Franceschini a repórteres durante uma exibição no Instituto Superior de Conservação e Restauração da Itália.

Os bustos, de um homem e uma mulher, datam dos séculos II e III e foram levados ao Líbano antes de serem transferidos para Roma, disse Rutelli.



Foto de 16 de fevereiro mostra dois bustos recuperados em Palmira, na Síria, após restauração feita na Itália (Foto: ALBERTO PIZZOLI / AFP)

O ex-prefeito também rejeitou os críticos que acusaram os restauradores de trabalharem com o regime do presidente sírio, Bashar al-Assad, enquanto a guerra devasta o país.

"Este gesto não tem nenhum elemento de apoio político da nossa parte. A Itália fez e fará isso para qualquer país que pedir", disse Rutelli, observando que a restauração também foi um tributo ao antigo chefe das antiguidades Khaled al-Assad.

Antes da sua morte, o octogenário "conseguiu esconder centenas de obras de arte, mas não esses dois bustos, que caíram nas mãos do EI", acrescentou.

## Técnica inédita

Uma equipe de cinco especialistas trabalhou nas restaurações durante um mês, focando em particular nos rostos.

Em uma das esculturas, a parte superior do rosto tinha sido destruída, mas a equipe conseguiu recriá-la usando um pó de nylon sintético e uma impressora 3D, uma técnica que nunca tinha sido usada para uma restauração deste tipo.

A nova peça foi anexada ao busto com poderosos ímãs, "o que a torna completamente removível, em linha com o princípio de que todos os trabalhos de restauração devem ser completamente reversíveis", disse Antonio Iaccarino, um dos restauradores.

"O que o Estado Islâmico destruiu, nós reconstruímos", disse. "Através da cultura, também travamos uma batalha ideológica".

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## SAIBA MAIS

[Exército sírio recupera terreno do EI e está a 25 quilômetros de Palmira](#)

SÍRIA

Lunes, 20 Febrero 2017 00:00 **CULTURA** Visitas: 505

## Italia devolverá restauradas 2 piezas históricas



### Redacción Cultura

Dos valiosos bustos de la antigua ciudad de Palmira, destrozados por la organización yihadista Estado Islámico, serán devueltos a Siria a finales de febrero tras su restauración en Italia.

Las piezas fueron recuperadas por las tropas sirias tras haber sido desfiguradas al parecer a martillazos en 2015 después de la caída de Palmira en manos yihadistas.

Se trata de uno de los pocos restos arqueológicos que salieron legalmente de Siria y serán entregados restaurados en pocos días al museo de Damasco.

“Este es un ejemplo de lo que llamamos diplomacia cultural, porque la cultura puede ser un instrumento de diálogo entre los pueblos, aún cuando las circunstancias sean difíciles”, afirmó a la prensa el ministro de Cultura italiano, Dario Franceschini.

Los 2 bustos, que datan del siglo II y III, fueron restaurados en los laboratorios del Instituto Superior de Conservación de Roma, entre los más prestigiosos en ese sector.

Se trata de una suerte de homenaje al exresponsable de la dirección general de Antigüedades del museo de Palmira, Khaled al-Asaad, decapitado en 2015 a los 82 años por los yihadistas de EI.

Antes de ser ejecutado, el arqueólogo “había logrado ocultar cientos de piezas”, aunque no pudo salvar los 2 bustos restaurados, contó el exalcalde de Roma, Francesco Rutelli, patrocinador de la restauración a través de la asociación “Incontro di Civiltà” que preside. (1)

ENLACE CORTO <http://tinyurl.com/hhuptyw>

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First Published: 2017-02-17

## Rare ancient busts rescued from Palmyra to be returned

Two rare busts of man, woman dating to 2nd or 3rd century AD ruined by IS hammers in Syria's Palmyra to be returned after restoration in Italy.

Middle East Online

ROME - Two rare busts rescued from the Islamic State group's destruction of the ancient city of Palmyra will soon be heading back to Syria, after a painstaking restoration in Italy.

Recovered by Syrian troops, they had been badly disfigured with what appeared to be hammer blows and are perhaps the only such artefacts to leave the desert site without being stolen.

Modern technology aided their saving, which is also being seen as a tribute to Khaled al-Assad, the former head of antiquities at Palmyra, murdered by IS fighters in 2015, at the age of 82.



Modern technology aided their saving

"This is an example of an issue we hold dear: that of cultural diplomacy, the fact that culture can be an instrument for dialogue between people, even when circumstances are difficult," Italian culture minister Dario Franceschini said Thursday.

IS jihadists seized Palmyra in May 2015 and began to systematically destroy the city's monuments and temples, while also looting its many archeological treasures.

They were driven out in March 2016 but recaptured the town last December.

Although the precise date of its founding is unknown, Palmyra's name is referred to on a tablet dating from the 19th century BC as a stopping point for caravans between the Mediterranean and the east.

Known to Syrians as the "Pearl of the Desert", Palmyra boasted temples, colonnaded alleys and elaborately decorated tombs that were among the best preserved classical monuments in the Middle East, before their wanton destruction.

Hundreds of important heritage sites have been sacked or destroyed during the five-year conflict, including the first-century temples of Bel and Baalshamin in Palmyra.

The two funeral busts, which are to be returned to Syrian authorities by the end of the month, were recovered by regime soldiers when they initially retook Palmyra.

They had been badly disfigured by hammers, said former Rome mayor Francesco Rutelli, who promoted the restoration through his "Incontro di Civilta" (Meeting of Civilisations) association.

The busts "are probably the only works of art taken from the Syrian conflict zone that weren't stolen", Franceschini told reporters during a showing at Italy's Superior Institute for Conservation and Restoration.

- 'Ideological battle' -

The busts, of a man and a woman, date to the second and third centuries and were brought to Lebanon before being transferred to Rome, Rutelli said.

He also rejected critics who have denounced the idea of working with the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad while the war in the country rages.



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"This gesture has no element of political support on our part. Italy has done it, and will do it, for any country that asks," Rutelli said, noting that the restoration was also a tribute to the late head of antiquities Assad.

Before his death, the octogenarian "managed to hide hundreds of works of art, but not these two busts, which fell into IS hands", Rutelli said.

A team of five specialists worked on the restorations for a month, focusing in particular on the faces.

On one, the upper part of the face had been destroyed, but the team managed to recreate the missing portion using a synthetic nylon powder and a 3-D printer, a technique that had never been used for such a restoration.

The new piece was attached to the bust with powerful magnets, "which makes it completely removable, in line with the principle that all restoration work must be completely reversible", said Antonio Iaccarino, one of the restorers.

"What the Islamic State has destroyed, we have rebuilt," he said. "Through culture, we also wage an ideological battle."

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## Italian restorers fix Palmyra artefacts destroyed by Isis



The busts will be returned to Syria towards the end of February. Photo: Andreas Solaro/AFP

**The Local**  
[news@thelocal.it](mailto:news@thelocal.it)

9 February 2017 | 11:14 CET+01:00

**Sculptures salvaged from the national museum in the ancient Syrian city of Palmyra after it was destroyed by the Islamic extremist group, Isis, in 2015, are being restored in Italy.**

After a complex cross-border mission, the two funerary busts are now temporarily in the hands of restorers in Rome.

Both artefacts, from the 2nd-3rd century AD, were damaged by hammer blows by Isis militants as they captured the city in May 2015.

The museum's chief, 81-year-old Khaled al-Asaad, was beheaded by the extremists as he tried to protect the site's treasures in August of that year.

The two busts, a male and a female, were brought to Rome as part of an agreement between Incontro di Civiltà (*Meeting of Civilisations*) and the Directorate of Antiquities in Damascus.

The female bust is being restored fragment by fragment, while sophisticated 3D print will help restore the aristocratic features of the male one. Until recently, they were on display at an exhibition at the Colosseum.

The artefacts will be returned to Damascus later this month, where they will be stored in the vaults of Syria's central bank.

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"In my memory, there hasn't been another case where sculptures which escaped a theatre of war have been restored in another country and then returned. It's a small miracle," said Francesco Rutelli, the president of Incontro di Civiltà.

Isis controlled the city until March 2016, when it was forced out by pro-Syrian government forces. But the group managed to recapture the city in December.

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Inicio / Cultura / REGRESARÁN A SIRIA DOS BUSTOS RESTAURADOS EN ROMA

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# Regresarán a Siria dos bustos restaurados en Roma

Notimex | jueves, 16 feb 2017 15:06



Los dos bustos son originarios del Valle de las Tumbas, que se encuentra a las puertas de Palmira. Foto [www.lcr.beniculturali.it](http://www.lcr.beniculturali.it)

Roma. Dos bustos fúnebres de caliza alabastrina, de los siglos II y II después de Cristo, que fueron dañados severamente por milicianos del grupo yihadista Estado Islámico (EI), regresarán la próxima semana a Siria, tras ser restaurados en Italia.

El anuncio fue hecho este jueves por el ministro de Bienes Culturales, Dario Franceschini, al presentar ante la prensa extranjera el trabajo de recuperación realizado por expertos del Instituto Superior para la Conservación y la Restauración de Roma.

“Es una operación de la que estamos muy orgullosos porque, en primer lugar, valoriza la gran competencia italiana en materia de restauración”, destacó.

Los dos bustos, originarios del Valle de las Tumbas, a las puertas de Palmira, estaban custodiados en el Museo de esa ciudad y fueron semidestruídos a martillazos por los milicianos del EI cuando tomaron el control de la zona.

En la primavera de 2016, la ciudad fue liberada y entonces arqueólogos sirios pudieron sacarlos para esconderlos en una caja fuerte del Banco Central sirio en Damasco, explicó el ex ministro de Bienes Culturales, Francesco Rutelli, presidente de la asociación cultural Encuentro de Civilizaciones, que patrocinó la operación.

Dijo que gracias a la colaboración histórica entre arqueólogos sirios e italianos los dos bustos fueron trasladados a Roma en octubre pasado para participar durante dos meses en la muestra *Renacer de las Destrucciones*, realizada en el Coliseo.

A partir de diciembre de 2016, las obras pasaron al Instituto Superior para la Conservación y Restauración, cuya directora, Gisella Capponi, anunció que la próxima semana regresarán a Damasco y estarán custodiadas en bodegas especiales en espera de que la situación en Palmira permita su retorno.

“Estos dos bustos provenientes de Palmira fueron fuertemente dañados por el Estado Islámico dentro del museo. Las dos obras estaban colgadas en las paredes, no pudieron ser resguardadas y sufrieron el ataque, perdiendo partes muy significativas del rostro”, lamentó.

Dijo, sin embargo, que fue posible reconstruir íntegramente el rostro del busto femenino, mientras el masculino presentaba una fractura muy extendida, por lo que fue hecha una réplica simétrica y removible de la parte de la cara existente para sustituir la dañada.

“Esta prótesis fue realizada con el uso de scanner y láser, y después fue adherida con imanes a la parte faltante del rostro”, detalló.

El restaurador Antonio Iaccarino Idelson explicó a Notimex que la operación consistió primero en recomponer los fragmentos dispersos de los bustos y después se hizo un escaneo a 3D con un sistema óptico de luz estructurada, en modo de tener la imagen tridimensional que permitió reconstruir la parte faltante.

Una vez realizado ese fragmento, fue fijado con imanes en la pieza original para garantizar la reversibilidad de la obra y su posible sustitución en el futuro.

Explicó que fue usado el método italiano de la restauración, sintetizado en la necesidad de mantener a las obras reconocibles y garantizar la reversibilidad de la intervención (a diferencia de otras escuelas que prevén la sustitución), para no crear piezas falsas.

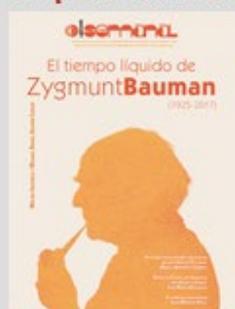
Iaccarino Idelson precisó que el rostro del busto masculino fue reconstruido sin dañar el original, y que el material usado para la prótesis fue polvo de nylon sinterizado (tratamiento térmico a una temperatura inferior a la de fusión de la mezcla, para aumentar la resistencia mecánica de la pieza) con láser.

Los dos bustos serán entregados a técnicos sirios que llegarán el próximo jueves a Roma y retornarán a su país con las piezas el 26 de febrero.

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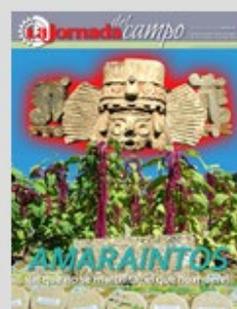
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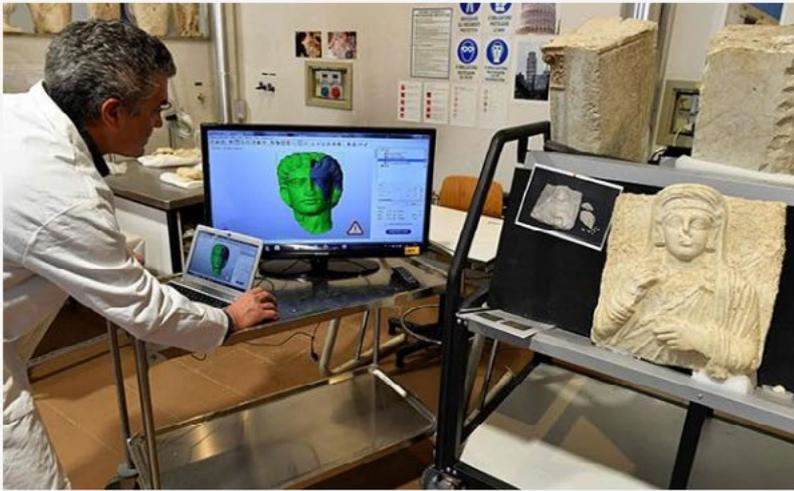
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## Regresan a casa bustos de la antigua ciudad de Palmira

AFP Agencia | Domingo 19 de febrero de 2017 | en Doble Vía

Dos valiosos bustos de la antigua ciudad de Palmira, destrozados por la organización yihadista Estado Islámico, serán devueltos a Siria a finales de enero tras su restauración en Italia.

Las piezas fueron recuperadas por las tropas sirias tras haber sido desfiguradas al parecer a martillazos en 2015 después de la caída de Palmira en manos de los yihadistas.

Se trata de uno de los pocos restos arqueológicos que salieron legalmente de Siria y serán entregados restaurados en pocos días al museo de Damasco. "Este es un ejemplo de lo que llamamos diplomacia cultural, porque la cultura puede ser un instrumento de diálogo entre los pueblos, aún cuando las circunstancias son difíciles", afirmó a la prensa el ministro de Cultura italiano, Dario Franceschini.

Los dos bustos, que datan del siglo II y III, fueron restaurados en los laboratorios del Instituto Superior de Conservación de Roma, entre los más prestigiosos en ese sector.

Se trata de una suerte de homenaje al exresponsable de la dirección general de Antigüedades del museo de Palmira, Khaled al-Assaad, decapitado en agosto del 2015 a los 82 años por los yihadistas de EI.

Antes de ser ejecutado, el arqueólogo "había logrado ocultar cientos de piezas", aunque no pudo salvar los dos bustos restaurados, contó a la prensa el exalcalde de Roma, Francesco Rutelli, patrocinador de la restauración a través de la asociación "Incontro di Civiltà" que preside.

Los restauradores italianos usaron además técnicas innovadoras, entre ellas una impresora de 3D para generar réplicas de las partes desaparecidas de los bustos, las cuales adjuntaron gracias a imanes.

Tras un mes de trabajo, cinco restauradores lograron recuperar el rostro de los dos bustos, uno de hombre y el otro de mujer.

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“Es un sistema completamente desmontable, de acuerdo con el principio de que toda restauración debe ser reversible”, explicó uno de los expertos, Antonio Iaccarino.

“Lo que el Estado Islámico ha destruido, lo hemos reconstruido. A través de la cultura también podemos llevar adelante una lucha ideológica”, comentó.

La ciudad de Palmira, joya arqueológica del desierto y ocupada nuevamente desde el mes pasado por el grupo EI que reinició la destrucción de su patrimonio, tiene más de 2 mil años de antigüedad y está inscrita por la Unesco en el patrimonio mundial de la Humanidad.



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# efforts "erase the act of violence"

POSTED 8:16 AM, FEBRUARY 16, 2017, BY CNN WIRE SERVICE, UPDATED AT 08:26AM, FEBRUARY 16, 2017

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Two sculptures from the ancient Syrian city of Palmyra, disfigured by ISIS fighters armed with hammers, have been painstakingly repaired by Italian restoration experts.

The funerary busts of a man and a woman were among a trove of artifacts spirited out of Palmyra by Khalid al-As'ad, the site's head of antiquities, in an attempt to save them from complete destruction as ISIS terrorists occupied the region in 2015.



A picture taken on February 16, 2017 shows a man bust which is one of the two funeral reliefs from Palmyra archeological site that will be restored, at the Higher Institute of Conservation and Restoration (ISCR - Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione ed il Restauro), in Rome. The busts of a man and a woman, dated from the 2nd and 3rd century AD and destroyed by the Islamic State group (IS), have been entrusted to the care of the technical and restorers of the ISCR in Rome. By the end of this month, they will be returned to their place of origin. / AFP / ALBERTO PIZZOLI

Al-As'ad's refusal to reveal where he had hidden the priceless carvings cost the 82-year-old university professor his life: he was publicly beheaded by militants in the city's main square in August 2015.

Italy's former minister of culture, Francesco Rutelli, organized the transportation of the two statues from Damascus, via Beirut, to Rome, where experts set to work restoring them.

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The busts, which date back to the second and third century, are now on display with replicas of other damaged artifacts from Syria and Iraq in a UNESCO-sponsored exhibition at Rome's Coliseum.



A picture taken on February 16, 2017 shows a woman bust which is one of the two funerary reliefs from Palmyra archeological site that will be restored, at the Higher Institute of Conservation and Restoration (ISCR - Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione ed il Restauro), in Rome. The busts of a man and a woman, dated from the 2nd and 3rd century AD and destroyed by the Islamic State group (IS), have been entrusted to the care of the technical and restorers of the ISCR in Rome. By the end of this month, they will be returned to their place of origin. / AFP / Alberto PIZZOLI

### 3-D printed repair work

"Italy wanted to maintain the request of the martyr of Palmyra, Khaled al-As'ad, who refused to collaborate with terrorists," Rutelli said.

Now head of the cultural heritage organization Meeting of Civilizations Association, Rutelli said ISIS had "ravaged [Palmyra's] museums with the purpose to destroy."

Antonio Iaccarino, from Equibrarte, the organization which carried out the repairs with Rome's Central Restoration Institute, explained the new techniques used in the work.



Italian restorer Antonio Iaccarino (L) shows on a computer a 3D model of the two funerary reliefs from Palmyra archeological site that are displayed next to him and that will be restored at the Higher Institute of Conservation and Restoration (ISCR - Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione ed il Restauro) in Rome, on February 16, 2017. The busts of a man and a woman, dated from the 2nd and 3rd century AD and destroyed by the Islamic State group (IS), have been entrusted to the care of the technical and restorers of the ISCR in Rome. By the end of this month, they will be returned to their place of origin. / AFP / Alberto PIZZOLI

"In the past, in a restoration process like this one, the entire damaged area would have been removed and reconstructed. In our case, we did not modify the original part of the sculpture in any way," he said.



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Pres. Trump has 3,643 websites that range from TrumpEmpire.com to TrumpFraud.org



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Reassembled elements of the statue were created by mirroring the artifact using nylon powder and then stamping them with a 3-D printer, Iaccarino said.

### 'Erasing the act of violence'

"When I saw the destruction for the first time, I was hit with such distress," said Daria Montemaggiori, another of the restorers.

"You could see the wickedness to eliminate, erase the human image. Seeing this, I was emotionally charged. The work of restoration allows us to erase the act of violence."

ISIS has brought destruction to Palmyra — one of Syria's most important historic sites — since it took control of the oasis city in 2015. Many of the city's irreplaceable monuments and antiquities have been razed.

Just days ago, Russia's Defense Ministry warned that "an upsurge in truck movement" in Palmyra indicated that ISIS is planning on using "explosives to deal maximum damage to the remaining architectural relics before they leave."

### Risky salvage operation

Faced with losing more precious artifacts at the ancient site, the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums of Damascus has undertaken a risky salvage operation with the help of Rutelli in Italy.

"It is the mobilization the world needs to defend and save cultural heritage against the fundamentalist ideas of ISIS," said Maamoun Abdulkarim, director-general of antiquities and museums of Syria.

"Our work in Syria as archeologists is scientific and not political, because the war in Syria will finish and the politics will change, but the heritage must remain as a memory of all Syrian people, this is a project of peace."

Having completed their mission in this particular case, Rutelli said the plan is to one day return the salvaged sculptures to their rightful places in Palmyra.

"The sculptures will be brought back to Damascus, eventually, they will return to Palmyra when it is safe," he said.

"These are the only pieces of art that have left the conflict areas of Syria and Iraq legally," he said. "But they left with the purpose to be restored and then returned to their origin."

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# Palmyra treasures restored after ISIS hammer assault

10 Views | February 18, 2017 | No Comments | World

The funerary busts of a person and a girl had been amongst a trove of artifacts spirited out of Palmyra by Khalid al-As'ad, the positioning's head of antiquities, in an try to avoid wasting them from full destruction as ISIS terrorists occupied the area in 2015.

Italy's former minister of tradition, Francesco Rutelli, organized the transportation of the 2 statues from Damascus, by way of Beirut, to Rome, the place consultants set to work restoring them.

The busts, which date again to the second and third century, at the moment are on show with replicas of different broken artifacts from Syria and Iraq in a UNESCO-sponsored exhibition at Rome's Coliseum.

## ISIS destroys Palmyra's Arch of Triumph

### Three-D printed restore work

"Italy wished to keep up the request of the martyr of Palmyra, Khaled al-As'ad, who refused to collaborate with terrorists," Rutelli stated.

Now head of the cultural heritage group Assembly of Civilizations Affiliation, Rutelli stated ISIS had "ravaged [Palmyra's] museums with the aim to destroy."

The ancient carvings were repaired using nylon powder and a 3-D printer.



Antonio Iaccarino, from Equibrarte, the group which carried out the repairs with Rome's Central Restoration Institute, defined the brand new strategies used within the work.

"Previously, in a restoration course of like this one, the complete broken space would have been eliminated and reconstructed. In our case, we didn't modify the unique a part of the sculpture in any approach," he stated.

ISIS militants armed with hammers left the priceless statues severely damaged.



Reassembled components of the statue had been created by mirroring the artifact utilizing nylon powder after which stamping them with a Three-D printer, Iaccarino stated.

## Why ISIS wants to erase Palmyra's history

### 'Erasing the act of violence'

"Once I noticed the destruction for the primary time, I used to be hit with such misery," stated Daria Montemaggiore, one other of the restorers.

"You may see the wickedness to eradicate, erase the human picture. Seeing this, I used to be emotionally charged. The work of restoration permits us to erase the act of violence."

ISIS has introduced destruction to Palmyra — one among Syria's most vital historic websites — because it took management of the oasis metropolis in 2015. Most of the metropolis's irreplaceable monuments and antiquities have been razed.

Pictures: How ISIS ravaged Palmyra's world treasures

**Earlier than:** The ruins of the two,000-year-old Temple of Baalshamin are seen in Palmyra, Syria, in 2007. The ISIS militant group took over the traditional metropolis final 12 months and razed elements of its [World Heritage Site](#). Syrian authorities forces recaptured the traditional metropolis from the phobia group in March 2016. Click on by way of to see the landmarks earlier than and after ISIS' occupation.

Pictures: How ISIS ravaged Palmyra's world treasures

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**After:** A Syrian authorities soldier walks close to what's left of the Temple of Baalshamin on Sunday, March 27. Syrian forces retook town days earlier than, however harm had already been finished by ISIS. UNESCO says it plans to judge the extent of **Palmyra's damage** quickly. Most of the constructions – which date from the primary and second centuries and marry Greco-Roman strategies with native traditions and Persian influences – stay in place, bolstering hopes that ISIS did not utterly raze the world heritage web site.

Pictures: How ISIS ravaged Palmyra's world treasures

**Earlier than:** The Arch of Triumph in 2006.

Pictures: How ISIS ravaged Palmyra's world treasures

**After:** The Arch of Triumph on March 27.

Pictures: How ISIS ravaged Palmyra's world treasures

**Earlier than:** The Temple of Bel in 2008.

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**After:** The Temple of Bel on March 27.

Pictures: How ISIS ravaged Palmyra's world treasures

Destroyed statues are seen contained in the broken Palmyra Museum on March 27.

Pictures: How ISIS ravaged Palmyra's world treasures

Many statues within the museum had their faces chipped off – in line with strict Sharia interpretations of the depiction of human types.

Pictures: How ISIS ravaged Palmyra's world treasures

Earlier than ISIS invaded, authorities took what they might from the museum. However bigger objects and people fastened to partitions needed to be left behind.

Pictures: How ISIS ravaged Palmyra's world treasures

Destroyed statues contained in the Palmyra Museum.

Pictures: How ISIS ravaged Palmyra's world treasures

The Syrian directorate-general of antiquities and monuments was optimistic that the situation of artifacts meant that they could possibly be restored and their "historic worth" returned, in accordance with a translation of an article on the [department's website](#).

Pictures: How ISIS ravaged Palmyra's world treasures

ISIS took over Palmyra in Could.

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By June, ISIS started destroying historic websites.

Pictures: How ISIS ravaged Palmyra's world treasures

Injury contained in the Palmyra Museum.

Pictures: How ISIS ravaged Palmyra's world treasures

Palmyra was a caravan oasis when Romans overtook it within the mid-first century. Within the centuries that adopted, the realm "stood on the crossroads of a number of civilizations" with its artwork and structure mixing Greek, Roman and Persian influences, in accordance with UNESCO.

Simply days in the past, Russia's Protection Ministry warned that "an **upsurge in truck movement**" in Palmyra indicated that ISIS is planning on utilizing "explosives to deal most harm to the remaining architectural relics earlier than they depart."

**ISIS destroys facade of Palmyra's Roman theater**

## Dangerous salvage operation

Confronted with dropping extra treasured artifacts on the historic web site, the Directorate Normal of Antiquities and Museums of Damascus has undertaken a dangerous salvage operation with the assistance of Rutelli in Italy.

"It's the mobilization the world must defend and save cultural heritage towards the fundamentalist concepts of ISIS," stated Maamoun Abdulkarim, director-general of antiquities and museums of Syria.

"Our work in Syria as archeologists is scientific and never political, as a result of the struggle in Syria will end and the politics will change, however the heritage should stay as a reminiscence of all Syrian individuals, this can be a venture of peace."

The restored busts will eventually be taken back to Syria to be returned to Palmyra when it is safe.



**Palmyra: Which ancient treasures did ISIS destroy?**

Having accomplished their mission on this specific case, Rutelli stated the plan is to sooner or later return the salvaged sculptures to their rightful locations in Palmyra.

"The sculptures will probably be introduced again to Damascus, ultimately, they'll return to Palmyra when it's secure," he stated.

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"These are the one items of artwork which have left the battle areas of Syria and Iraq legally," he stated. "However they left with the aim to be restored after which returned to their origin."

'No cause to concern' Vauxhall job losses, Clark says

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AP

# Palmyra treasures restored after ISIS hammer attack



By Valentina Di Donato and Lauren Said-Moorhouse, CNN Feb 17, 2017 0



Two sculptures from the ancient Syrian city of Palmyra, disfigured by ISIS fighters armed with hammers, have been painstakingly repaired by Italian restoration experts.

The funerary busts of a man and a woman were among a trove of artifacts spirited out of Palmyra by Khalid al-As'ad, the site's head of antiquities, in an attempt to save them from complete destruction as ISIS terrorists occupied the region in 2015.



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Al-As'ad's refusal to reveal where he had hidden the priceless carvings cost the 82-year-old university professor his life: he was publicly beheaded by militants in the city's main square in August 2015.

Italy's former minister of culture, Francesco Rutelli, organized the transportation of the two statues from Damascus, via Beirut, to Rome, where experts set to work restoring them.

The busts, which date back to the second and third century, are now on display with replicas of other damaged artifacts from Syria and Iraq in a UNESCO-sponsored exhibition at Rome's Coliseum.

[ISIS destroys Palmyra's Arch of Triumph](#)

## 3-D printed repair work

"Italy wanted to maintain the request of the martyr of Palmyra, Khaled al-As'ad, who refused to collaborate with terrorists," Rutelli said.

Now head of the cultural heritage organization Meeting of Civilizations Association, Rutelli said ISIS had "ravaged [Palmyra's] museums with the purpose to destroy."

Antonio Iaccarino, from Equibrarte, the organization which carried out the repairs with Rome's Central Restoration Institute, explained the new techniques used in the work.

"In the past, in a restoration process like this one, the entire damaged area would have been removed and reconstructed. In our case, we did not modify the original part of the sculpture in any way," he said.

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Reassembled elements of the statue were created by mirroring the artifact using nylon powder and then stamping them with a 3-D printer, Iaccarino said.

[Why ISIS wants to erase Palmyra's history](#)

## 'Erasing the act of violence'

"When I saw the destruction for the first time, I was hit with such distress," said Daria Montemaggiore, another of the restorers.

"You could see the wickedness to eliminate, erase the human image. Seeing this, I was emotionally charged. The work of restoration allows us to erase the act of violence."

ISIS has brought destruction to Palmyra -- one of Syria's most important historic sites -- since it took control of the oasis city in 2015. Many of the city's irreplaceable monuments and antiquities have been razed.

Just days ago, Russia's Defense Ministry warned that "an [upsurge in truck movement](#)" in Palmyra indicated that ISIS is planning on using "explosives to deal maximum damage to the remaining architectural relics before they leave."

[ISIS destroys facade of Palmyra's Roman theater](#)

## Risky salvage operation

Faced with losing more precious artifacts at the ancient site, the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums of Damascus has undertaken a risky salvage operation with the help of Rutelli in Italy.

"It is the mobilization the world needs to defend and save cultural heritage against the fundamentalist ideas of ISIS," said Maamoun Abdulkarim, director-general of antiquities and museums of Syria.

"Our work in Syria as archeologists is scientific and not political, because the war in Syria will finish and the politics will change, but the heritage must remain as a memory of all Syrian people, this is a project of peace."

[Palmyra: Which ancient treasures did ISIS destroy?](#)

Having completed their mission in this particular case, Rutelli said the plan is to one day return the salvaged sculptures to their rightful places in Palmyra.

"The sculptures will be brought back to Damascus, eventually, they will return to Palmyra when it is safe," he said.

"These are the only pieces of art that have left the conflict areas of Syria and Iraq legally," he said. "But they left with the purpose to be restored and then returned to their origin."

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# Palmira, i tesori distrutti dall'Isis "rinasciono" grazie alla tecnologia italiana

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di Laura Larcán

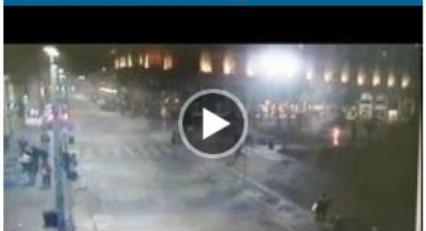
Un piccolo grande tesoro di Palmira salvato dall'Italia. Due busti funerari, di calcare alabastrino, di II e III secolo d.C., originari della Valle delle Tombe alle porte di Palmira, custoditi nel Museo dell'antica città, e trucidati dai guerriglieri dell'Isis che li hanno fratturati a colpi di piccone, poi gettati a terra nella follia di devastazione. Salvati in extremis nel 2016 quando sono stati ricoverati nel caveau della Banca centrale siriana di Damasco, rinascono ora a nuova vita nei laboratori dell'Istituto superiore per il restauro e la conservazione del Ministero per i Beni culturali, dove sono arrivati dopo un avventuroso e non poco rischioso viaggio. È in questi saloni del San Michele, sotto le mani di maestranze di prestigio e attrezzature all'avanguardia che i due busti feriti a morte vengono curati da un'équipe di quattro restauratori, un chimico, due geologi e un fotografo modellatore 3D, guidati da Gisella Capponi.

**La follia dell'Isis.** Si misura nella testa del personaggio maschile, vandalizzato da una picconata che ne ha lacerato metà volto. Ma il restauratore esperto di ricostruzioni in 3D è pronto a reintegrare la ferita con una speciale protesi frutto di una sofisticata stampa tridimensionale (polvere di nylon sinterizzata col laser) ingentilita da uno strato di stucco spesso un millimetro. «Senza fare un falso ingiustificato, ma nel rispetto totale del marmo originale», spiega il restauratore Antonio Iaccarino Edelson. «Una grande prova della qualità riconosciuta in tutto il mondo dei nostri istituti e dell'affidabilità acquistata dal nostro paese in questi decenni», commenta il ministro della Cultura Dario Franceschini. I due capolavori sono una rara testimonianza dell'aristocrazia dell'epopea leggendaria della regina Zenobia che nel 272 d.C. riuscì a conquistare un'indipendenza dall'impero romano, durata fino alla rivalse di Aureliano (pensare che Hollywood celebrò la regina di Palmira con un film interpretato da Anita Eckberg). Protagonista di questa storia di archeologia, diplomazia italiana, avanguardia del restauro del Ministero per i Beni culturali, sono il busto di un uomo, scortato da scritte in greco e palmireno e quello di una donna, bellissima, con il velo che le copre la testa e i gioielli che le fermano il mantello sulla spalla.

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I busti di Palmira "rinasciono" grazie alla tecnologia italiana

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I tesori feriti di Palmira

**Il viaggio.** Per la prima volta hanno lasciato il caveau di Damasco (dove sono ormai ricoverati tutti i tesori di Palmira sopravvissuti e ancora feriti) grazie all'accordo tra la Direzione delle antichità di Damasco e l'Associazione Incontro di Civiltà, diretta da Francesco Rutelli, che ne ha curato il trasferimento sotto la cura di Frances Pinnock la studiosa della missione de La Sapienza a Ebla. Sono arrivati a Roma ai primi di ottobre scorso, per sfilare nella mostra al Colosseo «Rinascere dalle distruzioni, Ebla, Nimrub, Palmira». A fine mese torneranno a Damasco, custoditi al sicuro nei caveaux della Banca centrale siriana. Con la speranza, un giorno, di rivedere casa, a Palmira. «A mia memoria - racconta il presidente di Incontro di Civiltà, Francesco Rutelli - non esistono altri casi di sculture che escono da un teatro di guerra, vengono restaurate in un altro paese e poi restituite. Una piccola operazione miracolosa» con «tutto il sostegno del governo italiano».



**La vicenda.** Quando nel 2015 i funzionari del Museo archeologico di Palmira corsero a salvare i loro reperti dall'arrivo delle truppe dello Stato Islamico, dovettero infatti lasciare indietro le statue e i sarcofagi più grandi, così come i due busti provenienti dalla Valle delle tombe («dove ogni famiglia si faceva costruire torri o ipogei con anche 300 sepolture»), perché esposti «incastonati nelle pareti». quando la città è temporaneamente liberata, nella primavera 2016, gli studiosi tornano a salvarli. Come arrivano fino a Roma? «I funzionari di Damasco li mettono in una cassa, e via terra, con un

**IL VIDEO PIÙ VISTO**



Apri l'oblò dell'aereo per fare una foto. Ma non è una buona idea...

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camioncino, li portano fino alla frontiera di Beirut affrontando decine di posti di blocco e controlli, per depositarli all'ambasciata siriana di Beirut che è attiva - racconta la Pinnock - Noi funzionari italiani ci incontriamo all'ambasciata, prendiamo in carico le opere. Non sono mancate le tensioni. All'aeroporto ci sono stati problemi di procedure doganali. Il giorno dopo siamo riusciti a partire ma con due voli diversi. La cassa viaggiava da sola: l'aereo partiva subito il nostro e l'ansia è stata tanta».

Martedì 7 Febbraio 2017 - Ultimo aggiornamento: 09-02-2017 16:44

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### LA PREGHIERA DEL MATTINO

«Non è una radicalizzazione dell'islam, ma un'islamizzazione del radicalismo»  
Redazione

### ESTERI

## Palmira, Rutelli: «Ricostruiremo quello che l'Isis ha distrutto»

Gennaio 21, 2017 Leone Grotti

I jihadisti hanno demolito parte del sito siriano patrimonio dell'Unesco. Intervista a Francesco Rutelli: «È perversione iconoclasta»

**Consiglia** 28

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«Non permetteremo che a **Palmira** rimanga un buco come in Afghanistan. Quello che l'Isis ha distrutto, lo dobbiamo ricostruire». Francesco Rutelli è «addolorato e indignato» per la «crudele esecuzione» di 12 persone nell'antica città siriana e parlando con tempi.it condanna «la perversione iconoclasta dei terroristi», che ha distrutto un'altra parte del sito archeologico patrimonio dell'Unesco.

**PATRIMONIO UNESCO.** Ieri l'agenzia Sana ha riferito che lo Stato islamico ha «distrutto la facciata dell'anfiteatro romano e le 16 colonne del Tetrapiro», due dei monumenti più importanti del sito archeologico, situato nella provincia di Homs, nel centro del paese. I jihadisti avevano conquistato Palmira, dove si trovano meravigliose rovine dell'Impero romano risalenti al I e II secolo d.C. nel maggio del 2015. Qui avevano fatto saltare in aria il tempio di Bel-Shamin. Riconquistata dall'esercito siriano con l'aiuto dei russi a marzo, la città è stata di nuovo ripresa dall'Isis a dicembre.

«**SALVARE VITE E CULTURA.**». «Si conferma la spasmodica attenzione dei terroristi per l'aspetto mediatico», commenta Rutelli. «La distruzione di questo patrimonio artistico irripetibile, dove sono state appositamente massacrare delle persone, dimostra che l'impegno per salvare vite umane e porre fine alla guerra non può essere separato da quello per la protezione del patrimonio culturale di un paese come la Siria».

**LA MOSTRA AL COLOSSEO.** Come presidente dell'Associazione "Incontro di civiltà", Rutelli è impegnato da anni in questo campo e l'anno scorso ha curato la mostra di successo "Rinascere dalle distruzioni", che ha portato al Colosseo tra ottobre e dicembre la ricostruzione a grandezza naturale di tre manufatti distrutti o danneggiati dall'Isis in Siria e Iraq. Tra questi, oltre al toro androcefalo alato di Nimrud e a una sala dell'archivio di Stato di Ebla, c'era anche il soffitto del Tempio di Bel, distrutto a Palmira.

«**RICOSTRUIREMO.**». «Quando sarà finita questa guerra e nella regione sarà di nuovo garantita la sicurezza non permetteremo che a Palmira resti un grande buco», conclude Rutelli. «Oggi è il giorno del dolore ma andremo a ricostruire quanto è stato distrutto, con l'aiuto delle autorità locali e internazionali. L'Italia è già pronta per far tornare Palmira al suo antico splendore».

@LeoneGrotti

Foto Ansa

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## Palmira, Italia salva l'arte ferita: così rinasce l'uomo "preso a martellate" dall'Isis

Si tratta di due busti funerari del II-III secolo d.C affidati al nostro Paese, dopo un avventuroso viaggio tra frontiere e posti di blocco. Le icone dell'arte ferita a Palmira in mostra al Colosseo di Roma.

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ARTE ITALIA ULTIME NOTIZIE 8 FEBBRAIO 2017 11:30 di Redazione Cultura



La ferocia barbara dell'Isis ha cercato di distruggerlo, annientarlo. Eppure, il busto funerario di un uomo, ritrovato a Palmira e risalente al II secolo dopo Cristo, ha resistito e adesso, grazie all'intervento italiano, è pronto per tornare alla luce. Per lui, infatti, si sta preparando una sofisticatissima **stampa in 3D** con sinterizzazione di polveri di nylons, che gli restituirà i lineamenti

gentili da aristocratico. Per quanto riguarda il busto femminile facente parte dello stesso ritrovamento, invece, frammento dopo frammento, è già tornata al suo antico splendore, con il velo che le copre la testa e i gioielli che le fermano il mantello sulla spalla.

### Due busti funerari del II secolo salvati in extremis

Sono i due busti funerari del II-III secolo d.C, icone dell'arte ferita a Palmira salvate in extremis nel 2015 dal Museo della città devastata, che per la prima volta hanno lasciato la loro terra temporaneamente e sono state affidate all'Italia dopo un avventuroso viaggio tra frontiere e posti di blocco, grazie all'accordo tra l'Associazione "Incontro di Civiltà" e la direzione delle antichità di Damasco. Esposte alla mostra al Colosseo "Rinascere dalle distruzioni, Ebla, Nimrub, Palmira", sono ora in "cura" ai laboratori dell'Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione ed il Restauro, che li riconsegnerà al paese siriano a fine mese.

### La soddisfazione del ministro Franceschini

"Una piccola operazione miracolosa", ha commentato **Francesco Rutelli**, il presidente dell'associazione "Incontro di Civiltà", annunciando che la mostra "proseguirà con altri capitoli in futuro". Soddisfatto anche il ministro dei beni culturali e del turismo, **Dario Franceschini**: "Soprattutto è una grande prova della qualità riconosciuta in tutto il mondo dei nostri istituti e dell'affidabilità acquistata dal nostro paese in questi decenni".

PRIMA PAGINA



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Il santo del giorno

## E' italiano il restauro delle opere di Palmira sfregiate dall'Isis

Portati all'Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione ed il Restauro due busti funerari

Gaetano Paciello - Feb 8, 2017



20  
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S. Eucherio



Due busti funerari che ritraggono marito e moglie. Dentro una cassa, tra posti di blocco e frontiere da superare, come due amanti fuggiaschi, sono giunti in Italia. Risalenti al II-III secolo d.C, oggi sono icone dell'arte ferita a Palmira. Per la prima volta hanno lasciato la loro terra e temporaneamente affidate all'Italia, grazie all'accordo tra l'Associazione Incontro di Civiltà e la Direzione delle antichità di Damasco, per essere prima esposte al Colosseo nella mostra "Rinascere dalle distruzioni, Ebla, Nimrub, Palmira", e per poi essere "curati" dai laboratori dell'Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione ed il Restauro.

### Franceschini: "Riconosciuta la qualità dell'Italia"

Una complessa operazione diplomatica che, come racconta il Ministro di Beni Culturali e Turismo, Dario Franceschini, è "prova della qualità riconosciuta in tutto il mondo ai nostri istituti e dell'affidabilità acquistata dal nostro paese in questi decenni". Dell'Italia e delle sue eccellenze le autorità siriane si sono infatti fidate anche dopo il grave incidente internazionale con la Francia, con opere prestate per un'esposizione a Parigi e mai restituite per lo scenario di guerra improvvisamente scoppiato in patria. "A mia memoria - dice il presidente di Incontro di Civiltà, Francesco Rutelli - non esistono altri casi di sculture che escono da un teatro di guerra, vengono restaurate in un altro paese e poi restituite. Una piccola operazione miracolosa con tutto il sostegno del governo italiano".

### Il salvataggio dall'Isis

Quando nel 2015 i funzionari del Museo archeologico di Palmira corsero a

salvare i loro reperti dall'arrivo dello Stato Islamico, dovettero infatti lasciare indietro le statue e i sarcofagi più grandi, così come i due busti provenienti dalla Valle delle tombe, perché esposti "incastonati nelle pareti". La furia dell'Isis è implacabile sui loro volti, ma quando la città è temporaneamente liberata, nella primavera 2016, gli studiosi tornano a salvarli e li portano a Damasco. Da qui i due busti, chiusi in una cassa, partono per Beirut. L'esito non è scontato: rapporti formali con l'Italia non ci sono e passeranno altre 48 ore tra ambasciata, permessi e l'intervento dell'incaricato d'affari italiano, prima che la Pinnock riesca a caricarli sull'aereo per l'Italia, il 5 ottobre.

## Il restauro

Ora l'Iscr e la squadra guidata dal direttore Gisella Capponi lavorano al restauro, frammento su frammento, ma anche con tecnologie all'avanguardia. Per la parte mancante del volto si ricorrerà a una sofisticatissima stampa in 3D con sinterizzazione di polveri di nylon: una sorta di protesi che ricomporrà i lineamenti, rimanendo però rimovibile. "I due busti – conclude Rutelli – diventeranno così testimoni della guerra, della volontà di distruzione ma anche della volontà di restauro". A fine mese torneranno a Damasco, custoditi al sicuro nei caveaux della Banca centrale siriana. Con la speranza, un giorno, di rivedere casa, a Palmira.

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# Restauratori italiani al lavoro su busti di Palmira, presto torneranno a Damasco

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I due busti funerari provenienti da Palmira e in restauro presso l'Iscr

**Publicato il: 07/02/2017 17:07**

Tecnici dell'**Istituto superiore della conservazione e del restauro** sono al lavoro su **due busti funerari**, uno maschile e uno femminile, **provenienti dal sito archeologico di Palmira**. Le due opere che risalgono al **II-III secolo d.C.**, sono in calcare locale bianco e arricchite da iscrizioni. Saranno recuperate entro la fine del mese e poi saranno **restituite al museo di Damasco**.

Si tratta di **due opere, danneggiate durante la presa del museo da parte**

**dei miliziani dell'Is**, tratte in salvo dai funzionari della **direzione delle Antichità di Damasco** che le ha portate nella capitale siriana nella primavera del 2015. I busti sono stati poi **affidati all'Italia per ricevere le cure adatte al loro recupero**. Un trasferimento rocambolesco, dalla Siria al Libano e poi a Roma, frutto della sinergia tra il nostro Paese e la direzione delle Antichità di Damasco, organizzato dall'archeologa Frances Pinnock. **Le opere sono arrivate a Roma nell'ottobre dell'anno scorso**.

"Quando i due busti arrivati qui - ha spiegato **Gisella Capponi, a capo dell'Istituto superiore della conservazione e del restauro** nel corso della presentazione - è stato costituito un **gruppo di lavoro formato da una geologa per lo studio del materiale, un chimico per verificare le superfici, i restauratori e un team dedicato all'elaborazione di un'immagine in 3d**, soprattutto per quanto riguarda la figura maschile, con lo scopo di ipotizzare la reintegrazione della parte mancante. Siamo molto orgogliosi di avere queste due opere da noi e speriamo che questo sia un primo passo per poter andare a Palmira".

Il trasferimento delle opere dalla Siria a Roma ha avuto luogo grazie all'intervento dell'**Associazione culturale 'Incontro di civiltà'**, presieduta dall'ex ministro dei Beni culturali, **Francesco Rutelli**.

"Qui si incrociano molte cose importanti e positive per il nostro Paese: la **qualità dei nostri istituti di restauro**, la qualità della nostra conservazione di documentazione dell'Istituto Centrale del Catalogo, che sono una **prova di affidabilità in tutto il mondo**", ha sottolineato il ministro dei Beni culturali e del Turismo, **Dario Franceschini** che ha poi aggiunto: "La seconda cosa importante è la grande prova di credibilità che il nostro Paese ha conquistato nei decenni. Ci hanno affidato le opere in restauro sia perché si fidano della



Tg AdnKronos, 20 febbraio 2017

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**Auguri Johnny Dorelli, 80 anni di talento**



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qualità dell'Iscr sia perché sanno che le restituiranno alle autorità siriane. Il tutto è un incrocio di eccellenze importanti del nostro Paese".

I busti, ora in restauro, **sono stati esposti nella mostra 'Rinascere dalla distruzioni. Ebla, Nimrud, Palmira'** organizzata dall'Associazione 'Incontro di civiltà' che si è svolta al **Colosseo**. L'esposizione, ha ricordato Rutelli, **"è stata visitata da 300mila persone e intendiamo portarla anche in altre città europee"**.

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# L'Italia salva l'arte ferita di Palmira

In 'cura' all'Iscr i busti funerari fatti a pezzi dall'Isis

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ROMA

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Lui, con il volto ancora segnato dalla ferocia barbara delle martellate dell'Isis. Lei, bellissima con il capo velato, le perle al collo e i gioielli ad appuntare il mantello sulla spalla. Il loro destino in una cassa, tra posti di blocco e frontiere da superare, uniti ancora una volta, come due fuggitivi da mettere in salvo. E' il rocambolesco viaggio dei **due nobili ritratti nei due busti funerari del II-III secolo d.C.**, oggi icone dell'arte ferita a Palmira, che per la prima volta hanno lasciato la loro terra temporaneamente affidate all'Italia, grazie all'accordo tra l'**Associazione Incontro di Civiltà e la Direzione delle antichità di Damasco**, per essere prima esposte al **Colosseo nella mostra "Rinascere dalle distruzioni, Ebla, Nimrub, Palmira"**. E poi prese in "cura" dai **laboratori dell'Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione ed il Restauro**.

Una complessa operazione diplomatica che, **racconta il ministro di beni culturali e turismo, Dario Franceschini**, è **"prova della qualità riconosciuta in tutto il mondo ai nostri istituti e dell'affidabilità acquistata dal nostro paese** in questi decenni". Dell'Italia e delle sue eccellenze le autorità siriane si sono infatti fidate anche dopo il grave incidente internazionale con la Francia, con opere prestate per un'esposizione a Parigi e mai restituite per lo scenario di guerra improvvisamente scoppiato in patria. "A mia memoria - racconta il presidente di Incontro di Civiltà, **Francesco Rutelli** - non esistono altri casi di sculture che escono da un teatro di guerra, vengono restaurate in un altro paese e poi restituite. Una piccola operazione miracolosa" con "tutto il sostegno del governo italiano", dunque, dice Rutelli, ricostruendo l'avventura dei due busti insieme a Frances Pinnock, la studiosa della missione de La Sapienza a Ebla che materialmente li ha portati in Italia.

Quando nel 2015 i funzionari del Museo archeologico di Palmira corsero a salvare i loro reperti dall'arrivo delle truppe dello Stato Islamico, dovettero infatti lasciare indietro le statue e i sarcofagi più grandi, così come i due busti provenienti dalla Valle delle tombe ("dove ogni famiglia si faceva costruire torri o ipogei con anche 300 sepolture"), perché esposti "incastonati nelle pareti". La furia dell'Isis è implacabile sui loro volti, ma quando la città è temporaneamente liberata, nella primavera 2016, gli studiosi tornano a salvarli ("oggi il 90-95% delle opere del museo è in salvo", assicura la Pinnock) e li portano a Damasco. E' da qui che i due busti, chiusi in una cassa, partono per Beirut. L'esito non è scontato: rapporti formali con l'Italia non ci sono e passeranno altre 48 ore tra ambasciata, permessi e l'intervento dell'incaricato d'affari italiano, prima che la Pinnock riesca a caricarli sull'aereo per l'Italia, il 5 ottobre.

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**Ora l'ISCR e la squadra guidata dal direttore Gisella Capponi lavorano al restauro**, frammento su frammento, ma anche con tecnologie all'avanguardia. Per la parte mancante del volto si ricorrerà a una sofisticatissima stampa in 3D con sinterizzazione di polveri di nylon: una sorta di protesi che ricomporrà i lineamenti, rimanendo però rimovibile. "I due busti - conclude Rutelli - **diventeranno così testimoni della guerra, della volontà di distruzione ma anche della volontà di restauro**". A fine mese torneranno a Damasco, custoditi al sicuro nei caveaux della Banca centrale siriana. Con la speranza, un giorno, di rivedere casa, a Palmira.

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## TORNERANNO IN SIRIA I BUSTI DI PALMIRA RESTAURATI IN ITALIA

Codice da incorporare**Publicato il 17/02/2017**

Roma – Due rari busti, uno maschile e uno femminile, provenienti dal sito archeologico di Palmira e distrutti dai miliziani dell'Isis, torneranno presto in Siria dopo essere stati restaurati in Italia.

In calcare bianco e con iscrizioni, risalenti molto probabilmente al II-III secolo d.C, i busti funerari sono stati recuperati dai funzionari della direzione delle Antichità di Damasco e sono stati poi affidati all'Italia per essere recuperati, all'Istituto superiore della conservazione e del restauro.

Il ministro dei Beni e delle attività culturali Dario Franceschini: "Mi pare evidente che di fronte al patrimonio dell'umanità tutto ciò che si può fare per salvarlo e tutelarlo prescinde dalle tensioni che ci possono essere tra stati, ci mancherebbe altro che non ci fosse un impegno a salvare, restaurare e restituire patrimonio che è dell'umanità, indipendentemente da chi ne è temporaneamente proprietario giuridico".

Per il restauro ci si è avvalsi di tecnologie all'avanguardia e del 3D. Francesco Rutelli, presidente dell'Associazione culturale Incontro di civiltà, impegnata per il trasferimento delle opere dalla Siria a Roma. "Torneranno a Palmira, quando sarà in sicurezza, quindi quello che l'Italia ha voluto fare è piuttosto eccezionale, sono forse le uniche opere d'arte uscite dalle aree del conflitto Siria-Iraq non trafugate".

Le opere erano parecchio rovinata, soprattutto i volti. Antonio Iaccarino, uno dei restauratori: "La testa è stata fracassata con dei colpi di martello, ha creato delle linee di frattura molto nette, e i blocchi erano staccati ma era abbastanza facile riposizionarli, tranne le parti mancanti". "La sfida di riuscire a ricomporre un volto lacunoso è sempre complessa, la soluzione trovata è soddisfacente, perché con un approccio matematico consente di riprodurre una parte così importante senza dare una forte interpretazione soggettiva".

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## Il miracolo dei busti di Palmira, salvati dall'Italia e restituiti



Sono rientrati in Siria i due busti di Palmira sfregiati dai terroristi dell'Is e restaurati in Italia. Sono "le prime e uniche opere d'arte" a essere uscite da Siria e Iraq in questi anni di guerra e a tornare dopo un minuzioso lavoro di riparazione senza essere state sottratte dai trafficanti, sottolinea Francesco Rutelli regista dell'operazione organizzata dalla sua associazione Incontro di Civiltà con l'aiuto dell'archeologo Paolo Matthiae, della studiosa della missione della Sapienza a Ebla Frances Pinnock, del governo italiano e dell'Istituto Centrale per il Restauro che mostra nel video le fasi di lavorazione. "I due busti - conclude Rutelli - diventeranno così testimoni della guerra, della volontà di distruzione ma anche della volontà di restauro". Ora i busti sono nei caveaux della Banca centrale siriana insieme a tante altre opere d'arte del paese messe in salvo in attesa di poter tornare a essere ammirate da tutti.

FLAVIA AMABILE

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# Palmyre: premier sauvetage archéologique réussi

**PAR KHALID KHAYAT** Des bustes endommagés par Daech ont été restaurés par des spécialistes italiens et sont aujourd'hui remis aux autorités syriennes.

C'

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est l'histoire d'une restauration exemplaire par l'Italie de deux œuvres d'art mutilées par la folie iconoclaste de Daech. La première du genre. Les deux bustes funéraires datant du II<sup>e</sup> siècle de notre ère proviennent du Musée de Palmyre, berceau d'une brillante civilisation sous l'empereur Hadrien, à 210 kilomètres au nord-ouest de Damas. Ce lundi 27 février, ils repartent pour Beyrouth, où le chargé d'affaires italien les remettra aux autorités syriennes.

En mai 2015, à l'approche des troupes de Daech, le conservateur en chef du site, Khaled al-Assad, sommité scientifique de réputation internationale, entreprend d'évacuer tous les objets du musée en état d'être transportés. Il le fait en collaboration avec le directeur général des antiquités de Syrie, Maamoun Abdulkarim, qui les entrepose dans les caveaux de la Banque centrale, à Damas. Khaled al-Assad le paiera de sa vie. Il sera torturé, puis égorgé sur le site par les terroristes avec dix-huit archéologues et collaborateurs. Scellés

dans les parois, les deux bustes n'avaient pu être mis à l'abri.

Dans son délire totalitaire, Daech veut également effacer tout témoignage de civilisation antérieure au VII<sup>e</sup> siècle, celui du Prophète. À leur entrée dans Palmyre, les islamistes s'en prennent à tous les vestiges du site. Ils attaquent les deux bustes au burin, arrachant une partie du visage de l'homme vêtu d'une toge. Ornée de riches bijoux, la figure féminine est aussi mutilée.

Quand, en mars 2016, les forces syriennes reviennent, épaulées par l'aviation russe, les archéologues s'empresent d'évacuer les œuvres vers Damas. Il était temps : quelques semaines plus tard, Daech reprenait possession des lieux. C'est alors qu'intervient l'ancien maire de Rome, Francesco Rutelli, à la tête d'une association italienne de préservation du patrimoine. Il prend contact avec Maamoun Abdulkarim et propose de faire venir les deux bustes à Rome pour les restaurer, le gouvernement italien s'engageant par lettre à les restituer après traitement.

## Masque en résine synthétique

Pendant cinq semaines, les œuvres ont

fait l'objet de soins attentifs. À la manœuvre, une équipe de six archéologues de l'Institut central de la restauration de Rome, dépendant du ministère des Biens culturels. Calques, reconstitution des visages en 3D, fabrication d'un masque amovible en résine synthétique fixé par trois aimants internes sur la partie manquante du visage, restitution des parties chromatiques disparues.

La restauration maintenant achevée, elles retrouveront leur place à Palmyre une fois le site sécurisé.

Le ministre italien des Biens culturels, Dario Franceschini, se dit « très fier » d'une opération qui « valorise nos compétences en matière de restauration » : « C'est le premier sauvetage archéologique en zone de conflit. Cela donne plus de force à notre appel à constituer, en accord avec l'Unesco, un corps de Casques bleus de la culture chargé de la surveillance du patrimoine mondial de l'humanité et de la répression des trafics d'œuvres d'art. »

Ce sera le thème majeur du G7 de la culture, qui se tiendra à Florence les 30 et 31 mars. □

